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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Job Cuts

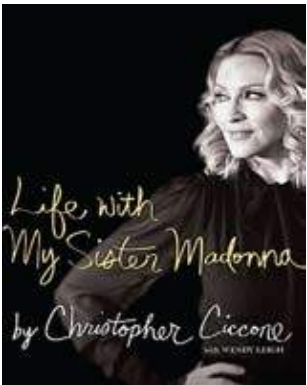
Northwest Airlines Corp. say it will cut 2,500 jobs because of high oil prices.

BUSINESS...Page 20

Consulate Attacked

Gunmen storm a guard post at the U.S. consulate in Turkey, killing three police and three assailants.

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Memoir on Madonna

Madonna's brother says the singer loves her husband but not as much as she loves herself.

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'Aquaculture could save NMI'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Commonwealth is poised to start a significant aquaculture industry with a host of proposals to spur its growth now in development, according to experts at a workshop held Thursday.

See **AQUACULTURE** on Page 4

More suspects in salmonella probe

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Think of your favorite recipe for salsa. Three common ingredients now are suspects in the salmonella poisonings that have become

See **MORE** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FUN IN THE SUN

After nearly two days of rain, tourists and local residents enjoy a day in the sun at the Palms Resort Saipan swimming pool.

Road paving fails to stop leaking pipe

Water pipe leaking for over a year now

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A main water pipe on the downhill slope of Puerto Rico Drive in Puerto Rico, Saipan has been leaking for over a year now, posing a danger to motorists.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that the government had paved the road many times because of the water leak problem, but "without fixing the pipe."

As a result, the short stretch of the road now has a total of nine patches of asphalt.

See **ROAD** on Page 4



Antonio Cabrera points to one of the two water leaks along the downhill slope of Puerto Rico Drive yesterday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ON THE NET

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella>
Food and Drug Administration: <http://www.fda.gov>

Family wants sewer treatment plant closed

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Puerto Rico resident wants the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to shut down its sewer treatment plant in the area, saying he and his family have been suffering from the "unbearable smell" for more than 10 years now.

See **FAMILY** on Page 4



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CONNECT

Local

20 govt lawyers exempted from salary cap

The Fitial administration has exempted 20 government attorneys from the \$50,000 annual salary ceiling.

Then acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez recently issued a certification allowing staff at the Attorney General's Office to receive annual salaries exceeding the \$50,000 set by the Compensation Adjustment Act.

According to the list, Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory will receive \$80,000 a year. Deputy Attorney General Gregory Baka and recently appointed Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch will each get \$70,000 a year.

Among the highest paid as-

sistant attorneys general are Alan Joseph Barak, Edward Buckingham, David W. Lochabay, and Rebecca Warfield, who will each get \$65,000 a year. The salary for AAG Jeffery L. Warfield is not too far behind, at \$63,000 year.

Other AAG's paid over \$60,000 are Mike A. Nisperos, Eleanor Nisperos, James Stump, Anthony Alexander Gorman, and Joseph Tajeron.

Only three attorneys at the AGO are getting within-the-cap salaries. One of them earns \$50,000 and the two others get \$49,000 and \$47,000 respectively.

Fifteen of the attorneys receive housing allowance amounting to \$600 or \$800, in addition to their regular pay.

The over-the-cap salaries are allowed by a law signed in September 2007. Under Public Law 15-81, government attorneys, as well as certified public accountants, may receive over the \$50,000 annual salary cap. The legislation took effect retroactively to Oct. 1, 2006. The retroactive provision was included to restore pay cuts made because the fiscal year 2007 budget did not have special provisions allowing

for the raised caps. Under appropriation acts between Oct. 1, 1998 and Sept. 30, 2006, an annual salary ceiling of \$70,000 applied to Executive Branch attorneys and CPAs. However, the FY2007 budget law did not include a similar provision. As a result, the salary ceiling for these professionals reverted to \$50,000 for the first time in eight years. The Legislature said the salary cap exemption was needed so the government could hire and retain full time employees, and subsequently, minimize personnel turnover costs. (Agnes E. Donato)

'Release the rebates of Reserve members now'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Lawmakers have urged the Department of Finance to release the CNMI tax refund or rebate checks of the U.S. Army Reserve members who have been called to active duty.

About 80 local Army reservists will leave in batches early next week to undergo one month of military training at Fort Liggett in California. They are expected to be deployed to the Middle East for one year shortly after the training.

The House of Representatives said in a resolution that, although the Army Reserve members will be paid by the U.S. government during their tour of duty, there may be a gap in compensation during the deployment transition phase.

The House also noted that many of the reservists have not received their CNMI refund or rebate checks for 2007 and previous tax years. The release of the checks now will help them and their families at this time,

especially with the rising cost of gas, electrical power, and basic goods and commodities.

"The Reserve members should not be saddled with additional stress of financial obligations and family uncertainties while serving their tour of duty in the global war on terrorism," stated the resolution.

The lawmakers suggested that the rebate or refund checks be released upon presentation of an Army Reserve member's involuntary call-up to active duty order.

The Department of Finance has said recently that the 2007 income tax returns are now being processed. About \$10 million to \$15 million in CNMI tax rebates will be released in the next 60 days, based on the processing of filed 2007 tax returns.

"We are ... keeping Governor Fitial's commitment to the timely release of local CNMI refunds and rebates," said Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos. The Fitial administration began releasing local tax rebates last Christmas


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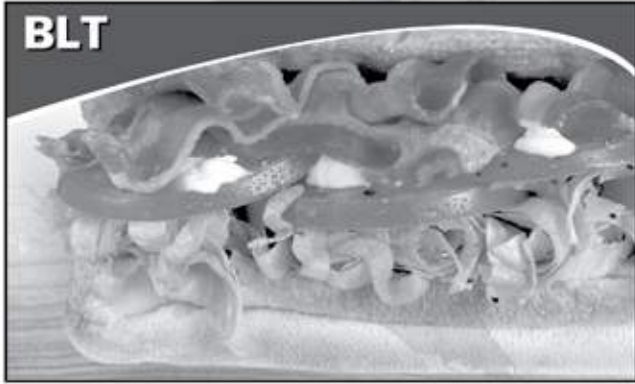
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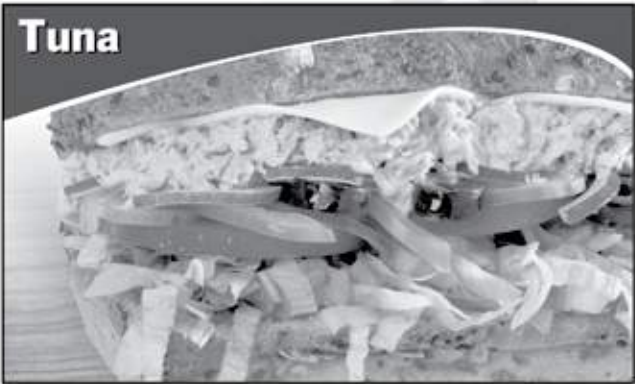
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SBA will start on the 3rd week of July. Captains need to get the teams sign ups in now so we can call a general meeting. Please bring sign ups with you July 12th.

Meeting will be held at 13 Fishermen's pavilion at 5:00 pm July 12th, all are welcome. Bring your own drinks and chasers.

Any questions, please call me at 233-4397.

Charlotte Tenepere
League Secretary



SAIPAN BILLIARDS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 504419, Saipan MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 233-4397
Email: leagues@saipangames.com

House OKs initiative for govt shutdown

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth government will shut down if a budget is not passed by the beginning of the fiscal year, under a proposed constitutional amendment approved by the House of Representatives yesterday.

By a unanimous vote, the House passed a legislative initiative removing a constitutional provision that currently allows government operations to continue even if an annual budget appropriation is not enacted.

The initiative now heads to the Senate, where it must receive the approval of at least two thirds of the members. Once it

passes the Senate, the initiative will be placed on the ballot in the next election.

Rep. Diego T. Benavente sponsored the initiative. Reps. Ramon A. Tebuteb, Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Ray N. Yumul, and Edward T. Salas signed on as cosponsors.

Proponents of the bill believe that a government shutdown provision will force the lawmakers and the governor to seriously review and enact a balanced budget on time.

The initiative provides an exemption from the shutdown for critical services such as health and safety.

Over the past years, the CNMI government has enacted an av-

erage of one budget every four years—usually at the beginning of a governor's term. In the years that no appropriation was passed, the government continued to operate under the last enacted budget. With the government's dwindling resources, the "continuing resolution" practice has proven problematic. Because the previous fiscal year's revenue collection is almost always higher than that of the current fiscal year, deficits have accumulated.

At present, the CNMI government has accrued a deficit of over \$170 million.

"There are many costs associated with the failure to enact a budget [and those include]

increased operational costs, the inability to deal with contractual obligations, and increased deficit spending resulting from working at the previous year's spending levels. Other incalculable costs include the decline in public confidence in public officials, damage to the image

of the Commonwealth government, and a poor credit rating," states the initiative.

Research by the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which has recommended passage of the initiative, showed that 23 U.S. states, including Hawaii, provide

for government shutdown in the absence of an enacted budget. Thirty-seven states have provisions against carrying deficits into the next fiscal year, which further enforces the principle of a balanced budget.

Pete A. wary of bill provisions in proposed CHC privatization

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has cautioned the Legislature about the autonomy being proposed for the future Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Tenorio said that a "quasi-independent status...may not have any true advantages over the current system."

In a written comment submitted to the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, Tenorio said the hospital corporation bill should be clearer

existing Department of Public Health, as well as for Medicaid, Medicare, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

The bill creating a Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation is before the House of Repre-

sentatives. Similar versions of the legislation have been discussed, passed by the Legislature, rejected by the Executive Branch, and again reconsidered by both branches in one form or another several times in the past years. (Agnes E. Donato)



Tenorio

into a separate, self-governing entity.

He raised concern about the proposal to give advisory powers only to the board of trustees. Although the trustees can recommend to hire and fire the chief executive officer, the CEO ultimately answers to the governor, not the board.

He also noted that the legislation, as introduced, does not speak to continuity, giving the notion that the board of trustees and the CEO will change with the election of each new governor.

"The Legislature might want to consider creating a board of trustees that not only has true governing responsibilities, but is accountable for the operation of the hospital, clinics, and other related health care services," Tenorio said.

He pointed out that the Legislature and the governor would maintain legal oversight of the board and the corporation, but would not be responsible for day-to-day operations.

Furthermore, he said the Legislature should ensure the new corporation would remain eligible for all federal grants that would be transferred from the

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

State of the Judiciary Address today

The Legislature will be conducting a joint session today for the State of the Judiciary Address. Lawmakers of both the Senate and the House of Representatives will receive the Judiciary's status report, to be delivered by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

The State of the Judiciary Address will be held at 10am, in the chamber of the House of Representatives at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

In a notice issued over the weekend, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes are inviting the public to this occasion. (PR)

See COMMUNITY on Next Page

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CUC LOAD SHEDDING SCHEDULE

Editor's Note: For July 12 through July 18, 2008

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that, as the rehabilitation and maintenance repairs continue on the engines and generators at the Power Plant 1, the load shedding schedule for July 12 through July 18, 2008 will be as follows.

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Feeder-2: Second Partial

Fishing Base south to San Jose Intersection

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Feeder-4: Second Partial

Capitol Hill, As Teo, Kagman and portions of Papago

12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. Kiya-4: Second Partial

Susupe, Mount Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa and Chalan Kiya Village

2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. Feeder-1: Second & Third Partial

99 Cents Store and portions of Garapan and Upper Navy Hill, Annaks Condominiums

4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. Feeder-7: Entire Grid

Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Kiya-2: Second Partial

Koblerville, As Gonno, San Antonio and Afetnas

8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Kiya-1: First Partial

Kannat Tabla, Botanical Garden, San Vicente, Dandan, Airport Road, Isley Field, Lower Dandan

The first partial in each of the respective feeder/kiya could be included to the schedule should the second partial be insufficient. In addition, water and wastewater services will be affected in the respective areas as a result of the power outages. CUC will make all efforts to keep to this schedule; however, it may be modified in future public notices. Be informed that this schedule may be altered to address particular emergencies when necessary.

COMMUNITY

From Page 3

Signature drive for marine monument

The Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument will be collecting petition signatures in support of the proposed monument at the Saturday market in Susupe, beginning at 8 a.m. Information handouts and additional copies of the petition will

be available. Look for Chuck Sayon, Chailang Palacios or Ruth Tighe. (PR)

New Call-A-Ride schedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities issued a notice yesterday to inform all Call-a-Ride customers of the revised Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

■ Monday to Friday
6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
■ Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ Sunday OFF
Bus fee \$3 one way,
\$6 round trip

Contact Wildrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell no. 483-9013/9012.

The management and operation of the Saipan Call-A-Ride Accessible Transportation Service program are currently provided by the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities under an annual contract agreement. (PR)

ROAD

From Page 1

Yet, water continues to flow from two points on the street.

"There's like a main pipe that has been leaking down that road forever. It's horrible, especially at night," said attorney Bruce Berline, who's staying near the area.

When asked about the problem, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Water and Sewer Division deputy director Bruce Megarr said he would look into the number of repairs they have done in that area the past six months and their future plans.

"I will come back with the full response to you. What we've done, when, by whom, and what we've discovered,"

Megarr said.

Berline said the water leak has been happening for over a year now and that the government tried to fix the road three or four times already.

The lawyer said that Hawaiian Rock and another company had fixed the whole street and the draining system was placed underneath.

"What's going to happen is CUC, whenever they get around to it, is going to dig up the brand new road to fix the pipe and probably leave it unpaved and destroyed," he said.

Berline said he even called CUC's Trouble Desk and also told the construction crew that they should fix the main pipe first before paving the street.

"They paved it. It's all nice

and beautiful except that nobody seems to notice that there's water coming out through the pavement. Shouldn't leaking pipes be one of CUC's biggest priorities?" he asked.

Antonio Cabrera, 47, a resident in the area, corroborated Berline's observation that the leak has been going on for more than a year now.

"It's a waste of money! They should fix the pipe before paving the road," Cabrera said.

He said the government paved a portion of the road that had the water leak, but the water keeps popping out in other areas and so the paving goes on and on.

"Look at this road now, it's all patches!" said Cabrera pointing to asphalt portions of the street.

MORE

From Page 1

the nation's largest foodborne outbreak in at least a decade.

And therein lies the frustration. Seven weeks into their investigation, federal health officials aren't shortening the list of potential culprits but adding to it. Now jalapeno pepper producers are being probed alongside tomato distributors, and even fresh cilantro is under suspicion too.

It's quite a departure from the 2006 E. coli outbreak in spinach, a mystery solved in about two weeks.

"We really, really got spoiled, if you will, with the spinach outbreak," Dr. Robert Tauxe, food safety chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,

told The Associated Press.

There aren't as many spinach lovers as tomato lovers, and the spinach consumers remembered eating came in bags, often still left in their refrigerators, bearing bar codes that were as good a clue as a fingerprint in helping investigators race to the very field that had been contaminated.

This time around, the suspects seldom are left over in the refrigerator or bear individual bar codes. Also, the victims are having a harder time remembering.

They say, "Well, I'm not sure, I may have had guacamole, or a garnish," Tauxe notes.

But this outbreak is lasting an unusually long time, with a record 1,017 cases confirmed by Wednesday—the first of whom fell sick April 10 and the latest

so far on June 26.

Tauxe said that makes the toll of the current salmonella outbreak far surpass recent large outbreaks of any foodborne disease: salmonella linked to peanut butter in 2006 and hepatitis A from green onions in 2003. It's not quite as big as when cyclospora-tainted raspberries sickened well over 1,000 people in the mid-1990s.

RELEASE

From Page 2

after receiving an additional \$26 million in federal cover over funds. The administration has reserved a total of \$32 million in federal cover over funds for the release of CNMI rebate and re-funds according to CNMI law.

FAMILY

From Page 1

Antonio Cabrera, 47, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that CUC should relocate the sewer treatment plant because it poses a health hazard to residents in the area, particularly those who live only a few meters away from the plant.

"I'm concerned about my kids' health," said the 47-year-old father of eight children. His oldest is 15 years old, while the youngest is only 1.

Their house is located on Puer to Rico Drive, so when the wind changes direction, the smell is just "too unbearable," he said.

"It's just like you have a migraine. I've been suffering this for many, many years now," said Cabrera, who used to work as maintenance personnel for the Department of Public Works.

When contacted by *Saipan Tribune* for comments yesterday, CUC acting spokesman Gary Camacho said the issue

will be brought to the attention of CUC executive director Antonio Muña.

Cabrera said he can't afford to move to another village because the property is his deceased parents' place and that he has no financial means to transfer.

Cabrera is handicapped due to a disability in his back. He and his jobless wife have been relying on food stamps and his monthly Supplemental Security Income pension to survive.

He said he is very disappointed with the government and CUC because they breached the long-time agreement they had with his parents.

Cabrera said when his parents were still alive they strongly protested the construction of the sewer treatment plant in the area.

He recalled that when former governor Froilan Tenorio was then a CUC director, the latter came up with an agreement with his (Cabrera) parents where they would get free electricity and have their house's windows sealed.

Cabrera said about four years ago, at a time when his parents have already passed away, CUC stopped providing them free power. He said he went to CUC and raised the agreement that his parents had signed. Cabrera said a CUC lawyer informed him that the policy had changed under the new administration. Since then, Cabrera said, he was forced to pay for power.

He said he and his family are willing to sacrifice and remain in the place as long as CUC will give them free power and seal their house's windows pursuant to the agreement.

"This is my only place," he added.

The *Saipan Tribune* first ran a story about this issue on August 2, 2001. At that time, then CUC acting executive director Patrick Guerrero said that CUC had run out of the "aroma neutralizer," which they usually use to counteract the smell from the sewage tanks.

The powder is usually sprinkled on the surface of the sewage water daily.

AQUACULTURE

From Page 1

Aquaculture is a multi-billion dollar business worldwide and proponents of it believe Saipan and the surrounding islands are an ideal location for the industry to take root because of the region's isolated location—key to safeguarding crops against diseases—and the high quality of the local seawater. The industry could give the Commonwealth a major boost during the current economic downturn, proponents say.

The workshop comes as supporters of legislation intended to encourage the growth of shrimp farming on Rota is now awaiting Gov. Benigno Fitial's signature. The bill, the Rota Aquaculture Act of 2008, would establish Rota as a specific pathogen free zone; meaning restrictions would shield the island against invasive diseases that can affect shrimp production.

Currently, aquaculture in the Commonwealth is limited.

However, there are several key prospects for further development, according to Michael Ogo, aquaculture specialist for Northern Marianas College. In a speech before a significant crowd at the workshop, Ogo noted that the Commonwealth already has one thriving shrimp farm with a second soon to begin operation on Rota.

Moreover, Ogo said NMC is preparing to experiment with raising groupers in captivity on formulated feed, research that could help any future local aquaculture operations do the same. Some species of grouper, he noted, are popular delicacies in Asia that fetch high prices. The college now has a tank under construction for the project, he added, which it hopes to stock in August.

A staple fish in the region, Tilapia, is the focus of a second plan by aquaculture proponents hoping to begin private sector cultivation of the fish species, Ogo said.

Yet any opportunity to encourage an aquaculture industry in the Commonwealth, he

added, depends on the support of the community.

"Not only is our location an advantage to us, but our proximity to the new and emerging Asian market is, well, it's right there," Ogo said. "We need to have the will to support this. We need to have the support of our leaders. We need to have the capacity, the right people, to pursue this technology and we need to have the facilities to do this. Most importantly, we need the financial backing to make this happen."

Meanwhile, NMC is now in search of a site for a new marine science center where aquaculture research can be conducted in addition to educational courses.

Gov. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez in a statement welcomed any potential growth in the aquaculture industry locally.

"We are blessed with many islands, endowed with relatively undisturbed ecosystems, and we have high hopes for a stronger aquaculture industry and successful business ventures."

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Jurors in Dr. Hocog's trial start deliberation

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jurors started deliberating yesterday in the case against Dr. Larry Hocog, who is on trial for allegedly illegally dispensing powerful pain killers.

The 12 jurors began deliberations after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson gave them instructions.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley and defense attorney Michael Dotts completed the closing arguments in the morning.

The jurors did not reach a ver-

dict yesterday afternoon. They are expected to resume their deliberations today, Friday.

In his arguments, O'Malley said the evidence and testimonies of witnesses proved beyond reasonable doubt that Hocog is guilty of one count of distribution of oxycodone hydrochloride and one count of distribution of meperidine.

O'Malley said Hocog could have challenged his medical license's restrictions by filing a lawsuit then re-applying with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"He just decided that the

law does not apply to him," O'Malley said.

The prosecutor said Hocog was the one who wrote and signed the medical prescriptions for the patients.

He said the two drugs the doctor prescribed—oxycodone hydrochloride and meperidine—are among the most powerful and dangerous pain killers.

DEA Los Angeles diversionary program manager Dr. Michael James Lewis had stated in his testimony that people will get addicted to these types of drugs, known as scheduled 2 and 3 narcotics.

O'Malley said the evidence showed that Hocog not only violated the law once, twice, but 90 times in the course of three months in 2007.

The prosecutor said Hocog was not authorized to dispense scheduled 2 and 3 narcotics yet evidence shows that he dispensed scheduled 2 narcotics.

O'Malley concluded that Hocog "stepped over the line."

In Hocog's defense, Dotts argued that the prosecution failed to present evidence that his client committed the crimes beyond reasonable doubt.

Dotts said that in the 90-day period that was questioned by the government, Hocog probably saw 3,600 patients.

"Dr. Hocog is a very busy doctor," Dotts said.

He quoted Department of Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez's testimony that if the restrictions expired, then "Hocog could do anything any

other doctor could do."

Dotts said Hocog's license issue is still pending in the local medical board, but the U.S. government jumped the gun.

He said the government cannot prove that the defendant acted knowingly in signing the prescriptions.

The defense lawyers quoted some nurses and a CUC official who testified that the nurses administered the prescriptions and not the doctors.

"Dr. Hocog did not intend to violate the law," Dotts stressed.

He quoted Dr. Lewis as saying that Hocog was upfront with the restrictions on his license and this shows that the defendant is not hiding anything.

"He's very honest to DEA," he said.

Citing the case of a patient who was doing fine after being treated by Hocog, Dotts said the evidence shows that "Hocog is a fine doctor."

O'Malley stated in the indictment that beginning Sept. 4, 2007 and continuing until Nov. 30, 2007, the defendant dispensed oxycodone hydrochloride, a controlled substance.

The prosecutor said that on Sept. 4, 2007 until Nov. 26, 2007, Hocog distributed a controlled substance, meperidine (commonly known as demerol).

O'Malley said the doctor dispensed such drugs despite a restriction on his DEA controlled substance registration certificate and his CNMI license to practice medicine.

Vendors ask for more funding from PSS

By **JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ**
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Public School System is now working on coming up with a solution for approximately six vendors that provide food to both public and private schools and are asking

The vendors are asking the Public School System to give them more funds.

Vendors need to know the information now, so that they can prepare for the following school year. Such preparations that they need to do includes purchasing and ordering goods so that they can be ready and organized for the next school year.

"The PSS is trying its best to get the final decision, to get it as soon as possible. In the next following days, we will have more information and we will let the vendors know," said PSS acting commissioner Craig Garrison.

Increased fuel cost and power outages have negatively affected the vendors, who are incurring added costs not only in cooking the meals but also for

transportation.

One vendor on Tinian has reportedly decided to quit its contract with PSS unless they were to get more funding.

"Of course, I (and I'm sure the others) feel very discourage with the increased fuel prices and groceries. The company has made some changes for the new school year, but we really do not profit much from what PSS is currently paying us," said Ernel Rubio from Barny's Pizza.

Barny's Pizza serves approximately 1,400 lunch meals each school day. They provide food to the Seventh Day Adventist School, San Antonio Elementary School, Marianas High School, and San Antonio Head Start.

"We need two months ahead of time to prepare, we have been conservative with what we are serving now. We are serving less milk, and water instead," said one of the vendors.

The vendors, PSS, and Food and Nutrition Services will soon make a final decision regarding this matter.

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NMI delegate looks forward to World Youth Day

Thousands will be attending the World Youth Day on July 15 and Querlaine Blas is happy and excited to be one of the 42 local students who will go to Sydney, Australia, for the five-day event.

She will be leaving tomorrow morning at 3am, accompanied by

Marie T. Muna, assistant coordinator for the CNMI delegation.

Blas is currently attending Kagman High School and has been a Roman Catholic since she was 4 years old. The World Youth Day is being organized by the Catholic Church.

"I am extremely excited but nervous at the same time. I don't have any idea of what to expect but I do think that this is a great opportunity and I hope all of us that are participating have a great experience," said the 17-year-old.

"I also feel very fortunate and thankful to so many people, especially to my sponsors," she added.

The CNMI delegation has been preparing for the event since the beginning of 2007. They have been doing fundrais-

ers and receiving support from sponsors. "It has been a community effort, we have received many donations," said Muna.

Muna said this is not the first World Youth Day that the CNMI delegates are participating in. They have also sent delegates to the World Youth Day in the Philippines, Canada, and Germany.

In Australia, local families will provide the youths with shelter, and they will get to live with their foster families. The CNMI delegation will be at-

tending the Our Lady Mount Carmel Bonny Rigg and Mount Pritchard churches.

The CNMI delegates will participate in prayers, Bible reading, confessions, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic celebrations, and a host of other programs.

Fr. Man Soo Kye of the Korean Catholic Church of Saipan, Fr. Delfin Tumaca, and Rey D. Rosal of San Vicente Church are some of the participants that will attend the occasion. *(Jacqueline Hernandez)*

Cause of MGM blaze remains undetermined

By **FERDIE DELA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fire investigators yesterday were still looking into the cause of Wednesday's fire that razed the MGM garment factory in Chalan Piao.

"The cause of the fire is still under investigation," according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro. "At this time, the cause of the fire is undetermined."

She said investigators were still checking the fire scene and interviewing witnesses.

Investigators were seen at MGM from morning until afternoon.

As of 4pm yesterday, Ogumoro said investigators were

still at the scene.

The blaze, which reportedly started shortly before 5am and was extinguished at 3:30pm that day, resulted in the evacuation of over 200 workers.

Initial investigation showed that the fire started at the production line near the southern end of the single story tin-roofed factory. No one was hurt as the factory was closed at the time. The workers were then sleeping in their barracks, which is located in a separate three-story concrete building.

The barracks is in the same MGM compound along Tun Tomas P. Sablan Road corner Lillok Plaza. Behind the barracks was the factory that went up in flames.

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TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE	) FCD-GU
APPOINTMENT OF)
GUARDIANSHIP OF	) CIV. ACTION
JOYCE ANNE RIOS NISOLA,	) NO. 08-0372
Minor Child,)
By	) NOTICE OF
MARISSA BUNDALIAN OWEN,	) HEARING
Petitioner.)

Please take notice that the above-stated matter shall come on for hearing on the 28th day of July, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commonwealth Superior Court on the petition of Marissa Bundalian Owen for her appointment as a general guardian for minor child Joyce Anne Rios Nisola (d.o.b. 12/06/1999) born in the Philippines. Those wishing to be heard on this matter, please contact Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq. at the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, or appear at the Commonwealth Court at the above-stated date and time.

Dated July 8, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter of the	) FCD-AD
Adoption of	) CIVIL ACTION
HUANBO WANG,	) NO. 08-0373
a minor child,)
By,	) NOTICE OF
EBENEZER T. TETTEH,	) HEARING
Petitioner.)

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Ebenezer T. Tetteh has filed a verified Petition for the adoption of minor child Huatibo Wang in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on July 28, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2008.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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CRIME OF THE WEEK

Vandalism at the Grotto

Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on any of the individual(s) involved in the vandalism of the monument built in honor of the late Capt. Vicente M. Concepcion at the Grotto dive site in Marpi. The incident, classified as a criminal mischief, was reported to authorities on July 3, 2008, at 4:01pm. The perpetrators involved in this incident stole the letters "T", "O", and "N".

Anyone having information about these crimes, please call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. Caller ID is not used. All calls remain anonymous. (*Crime Stoppers*)



DPW expects to spend \$17M for '08 projects

The Department of Public Works has lined up several federally funded highway projects for 2008 and estimates to obligate over \$17 million in design, construction management and construction contracts throughout the CNMI.

DPW recently completed the Beach Road hazard elimination project, which was funded under the CNMI Territorial Highway Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

The project included shoulder reconditioning, asphalt paving, installation of pavement markings, traffic signs, road guide signs and installation of guardrails at designated locations, construction of curb and gutter, ponding basin, inlets and installation of infiltrators to eliminate

ponding along the shoulders of parts of Beach Road.

Several new engineering designs, construction management and construction contracts under the Federal Highway Program have been executed in 2008 and are currently ongoing.

Of the approximately \$4.62 million allocation from the U.S. Department of Transportation for FY 2008, DPW has obligated approximately \$1.9 million on its federal highway projects throughout the CNMI to date.

Projects include the engineering design of Route 10 and Route 100 shoulder repair, Route 202 construction management services, construction of Route 202 road and drainage improvements on Tinian, and the Route 101 construction management services.

The Route 202 road and drainage improvement notice to proceed was issued on June 16, 2008 to GPPC Inc. and work on this project is currently ongoing. DPW expects GPPC to successfully complete the work within the contract terms, conditions, and with the highest level of quality and performance.

DPW is currently finalizing the construction management service contract for the cross island Phase I reconstruction and upgrading project and will also be announcing two new construction management RFPs by middle part of this month for the Route 11 and the Route 201 road and drainage improvement projects on Rota and Tinian respectively.

DPW is also in the final stages of completing all proj-

ect requirements and hopes to secure approval from Federal Highway Administration for the approval to advertise three new construction IFBs within the next few months. These projects include the construction of Route 201 road and drainage improvement, Tinian; the Route 11 road and drainage improvement, Rota; and the cross island road and drainage reconstruction and upgrade, Phase I.

Construction of Route 101 road and drainage improvement is currently in the bidding process and construction should begin as soon as the contract is reviewed, approved, and executed.

The planning of future road improvement and hazard elimination projects for FY 2009 through 2011 is ongoing. (*JDL*)

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BEH closes bar, illegal vendor in June

The Bureau of Environmental Health closed down a bar and an illegal roadside vendor in June due to serious violations of health and sanitation standards.

The bureau shut down the Johnny's Bar and Grill in Garapan on June 30, 2008. There is no report yet if the bar has already re-opened since then. Roadside vendor Li Bo Xing was closed down on June 20.

In May, the bureau shut down two restaurants, the D.C. Tea House in Garapan and the Domo Restaurant in Chalan Kanoa, both on May 28. Based on the BEH report, only the D.C. Tea House has re-opened, on June 20.

Prior to these closures, the bureau also shut down the Island Medical Center in Susupe on Feb. 28, 2008.

The bureau also conducted sanitary inspections in June on

the following retail, eating and drinking establishments and their grades are as follow:

GRADE "A"

1. Shell Susupe Retail, Susupe
2. Zhong Guang Store, Susupe
3. Marg's Bakery & Retail, Susupe
4. Barny's Pizza, Susupe
5. Elephant Mini Cart, Chalan Kanoa
6. Lao Market, Chalan Kanoa
7. M&D Retail Store, San Antonio
8. L.A. Tax Free Shop, Chalan Lau Lau
9. Ice Kiss Wholesale, Chalan Lau Lau
10. Coca Cola Beverage Co. Wholesale, Chalan Lau Lau
11. Classic Design, Kobleville
12. Shell Gualo Rai Retail, Gualo Rai
13. J's Restaurant, Gualo Rai
14. S.P.E. SPN Wholesale, Gualo Rai

15. Dasom Market, Gualo Rai
16. Capital Bowling Center, Garapan
17. Hong Wan Restaurant, Garapan
18. Coco Restaurant, Garapan
19. MJ Catering, Garapan
20. Colmar Restaurant, Garapan
21. Fiesta Resort and Spa (outlets), Garapan
22. K's Wow Pao Bakery, Garapan
23. Yu Young Wholesale, Chinatown
24. Galaxy Snack and Bar, As Ter-laje
25. Miramar BBQ & Vegetable Stand, San Vicente
26. Ace HARDWARE, San Vicente
27. Shell San Roque Retail, San Roque
28. 999 Market, Chalan Piao
29. King Fisher (outlets), Talafofo
30. Sara Market II and Butcher, Capital Hill
31. Horizon Retail and Wholesale, Tanapag

32. New Star Market, Tanapag
33. J&N Mini Mart, Tanapag
34. Niko Market, San Roque

GRADE "B"

1. Shanghai Pianli Store, Garapan
2. FPJ Catering, San Jose
3. Saigon Vietnam Restaurant, Garapan
4. Himawari Bakery and Retail, Garapan
5. Rainbow karaoke Bar, Garapan
6. Bolis "R" Us Bakery, Chalan Kanoa
7. Pacific Ocean Int'l Trade Retail, Chalan Kanoa
8. Taste of India, Chalan Lau Lau

GRADE "C"

None
There may have been changes to these grades since the information was released. For updated information, call the bureau at 664-4870 or fax 664-4871.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 11, 2000

Clinton's economic plan for NMI: No major promises

President Clinton's policy-making group for the CNMI has recommended several immediate measures to help the islands ensure economic growth, but these fall short of definite commitment from Washington. The so-called Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA) has released its report compiled following discussions between senior White House officials and governors of the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands.

OPA faults CDA's building renovation

The Office of the Public Auditor has reproached the Commonwealth Development Authority for its failure to observe prudence as called for by the CNMI government-wide cost-cutting program when it decided to renovate its building in Gualo Rai. Renovation of the structure along Middle Road will eventually increase CDA's monthly rental of the property from \$8,000 to \$13,489, or a difference of over \$5,000, according to the final OPA report released yesterday.

HANMI bans outside food to hotel banquets

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands yesterday banned guests from bringing food prepared outside hotel properties into banquet functions to prevent possible food poisoning incident. At the same time, the 19-member hotel association will no longer allow food to be brought out of banquet functions as "leftovers". However, the ban will not cover functions catered outside by hotels at a customers' venue.

July 11, 2001

Govt irons out deal with NMIRF

Officials of the Commonwealth government and the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund have finally come to an agreement on a regular payment schedule that is being touted as a step toward resolving the government's \$60 million arrears at the Fund. Kathleen Troy-Rucker, the Fund's general counsel, said that they have already talked with finance and treasury officials and will sit down with them again sometime this week to hammer out the details of a memorandum of agreement where the government will promise to pay the Fund \$500,000 every two weeks.

CPA stops oil leak cleanup

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has stopped oil leak cleanup operations at the Saipan International Airport, due to Mobil Oil Marianas' persistent refusal to pay half of the expenses. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios yesterday disclosed that Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, the firm contracted to do the cleanup, has been ordered to temporarily abandon the project.

Continuous improvement earns HKMA Award for THC Garment

The Hong Kong Management Association has awarded Tan Holdings Corporation's three factories on Saipan, along with the company's worldwide garment affiliates with the "Certificate of Excellence for the year 2001 Quality Award." The Saipan-based factories include TransAsia Garment Forte Corporation, Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corporation, and Global Manufacturing, Inc. Each of the factories are ISO 9002 certified and carry the prestigious SA 8000 Certificate of Social Compliance for international standards of social accountability and best business practices.

July 11, 2002

Random drug testing for students backed

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold random drug testing of public school students who participate in extracurricular activities has spurred talks among local education officials of implementing a similar regulation within the Public School System. Board of Education Chair Herman T. Guerrero and Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos expressed support for the ruling, noting that it has made PSS rethink its existing policies on student discipline.

OIA's Cohen visits the NMI

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Insular Affairs, David Cohen, arrived last night from Guam for a one-day visit, as he familiarizes himself with the insular areas and the different issues facing them. Cohen will meet with Gov. Juan N. Babauta this morning at the Office of the Governor, where it is expected that he will follow up on the topics he earlier discussed with the Governor in Washington D.C.

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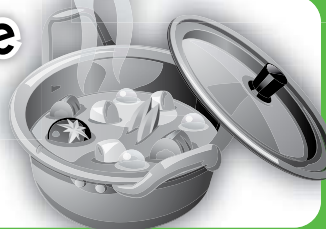
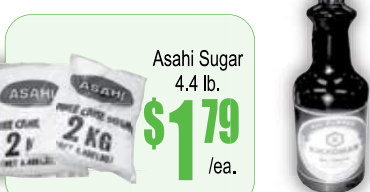
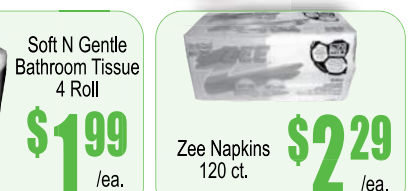
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Poor excuses

Those who expect little from the annual Group of 8 summit are seldom disappointed. Though the member countries are all democracies (Russia's peculiar version of the concept notwithstanding) with industrialized economies and many common interests, the stars seldom align to produce eight leaders who can agree on the solution to any world problem.

There was, however, one recent exception: In 2005, then-British Prime Minister Tony Blair led a successful drive to pressure rich nations to boost their aid to poor ones. The result was a commitment by G-8 members to double their aid to Africa by 2010, an increase of \$25 billion.

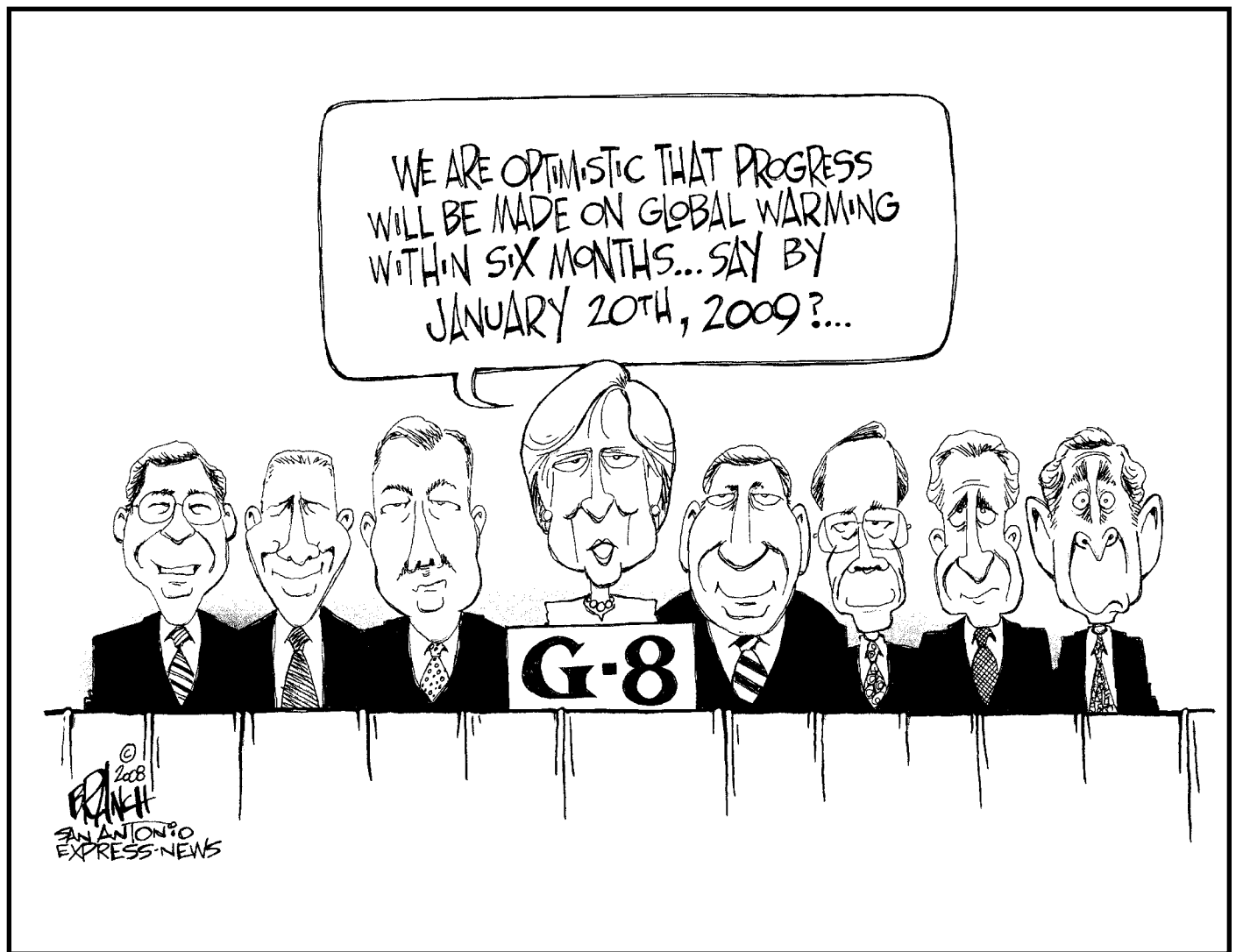
Sadly, this week's summit in Hokkaido, Japan, could mark the official breaking of that promise. International news reports said the draft version of this year's final communique -- the document that will sum up the accomplishments of the world leaders, including President Bush, at the close of the gathering Wednesday -- dropped the aid target set in 2005. Few countries have shown any sign that they intend to meet it anyway.

Rising prices for food and oil have taken center stage this year, overshadowing issues such as international development and climate change. It's no surprise that G-8 members are guarding their checkbooks more closely amid all the uncertainties. Yet the same economic forces that are unsettling leaders in Europe, Russia, Japan and North America are only increasing the need for help in Africa and the developing world.

G-8 leaders are struggling with a series of problems that are deeply interconnected. Rising fuel costs are linked with rising food costs, because some rich countries (led by the United States) are converting grain into motor fuel. High oil prices also create pressures to open more places to drilling, which would encourage oil consumption and worsen climate change. Global warming, meanwhile, produces droughts, diseases, floods and other catastrophes that hurt economies and destroy crops -- thus encouraging high food prices and raising the threat of starvation in poor countries.

Bush and his cohorts at the summit can be forgiven if they fail to fix all this by Wednesday. They can't be forgiven, though, for forcing poor countries to pay the full price of their shortsighted policies. G-8 members are the source of many of the problems afflicting the developing world; our farm subsidies, ethanol policies, coal-fired power plants, SUVs and wasteful habits are ruining livelihoods overseas. The very least we can do is to keep our promises to help undo some of the damage.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



1-2-3-4-R

Thanks to my atavistic streak, I still regard a manual transmission as a necessary part of any pickup truck. My truck's shifter is labeled so: 1-2-3-4-R. And, funny thing about my recent travels: Much of the tropics seems to be labeled the same way. The "R" is for Saipan, but let's run through the other gears first.

Here's a dandy for the first gear of my recent travels: Puerto Rico. Like the CNMI, it's a "U.S. Commonwealth." My first trip to Puerto Rico was a long time ago, and I spent most of my time in San Juan, which, just my luck, was in the midst of a murder spree. But this time around, I wound up on a more peaceful stretch of island turf, which, in many ways, looked like Tinian. It was highly enjoyable work.

In Puerto Rico, many Puerto Ricans were employed in manufacturing. Hewlett-Packard has a large and visible presence there. Pfizer, the large pharmaceuticals firm, has plants there, too. I think there has been some contraction in Puerto Rico's pharmaceutical sector in recent times, but, well, they're still operating to some extent. Also, I saw lots of small-scale businesses, owned, operated, and staffed by locals.

A scion of a local family had heard I'm a coffee hound, so he gave me a cup of coffee and asked me what I thought of it. Great stuff, I said. He beamed with pride: He told me that the coffee came from his family's plantation. They operated it themselves. Tended it themselves.

Then, second gear, I went to Taiwan. Technically, not all of Taiwan is a "tropical island," given that the Tropic of Cancer cuts through it. But, that's close enough: its feet are in the tropics. Anyway, Taiwan is an impressive island, a beehive of activity. I wrote about Taiwan earlier this year, so I won't rehash old tales. Suffice it to say that the people are very hardworking, and there's a strong and vibrant entrepreneurial sector.

Then, third gear, Macau. Wow, that Macau! Talk about a boom town, or, I guess, boom island. Construction cranes were in great evidence. Fancy, private jets zoomed in and out of the airport. Macau, as you know, is casino central. I guess they like having jobs, economic activity, financial growth, and all that stuff. Imagine that.

But I'm just now getting to the most impressive of them all, the turbo-overdrive, super-charged, incredibly fast-paced top gear: Hong Kong. Hardworking, risk-taking, entrepreneurial,

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and Saipan-Blog.com.



no-nonsense, fast-living, efficient, confident, cultured, busy, Hong Kong.

And now we contemplate Saipan. Stuck in "R," for "reverse." It's quite a contrast with the other places (though I'm sure that Uncle Sugar's handouts to Puerto Rico have had the inevitable effects to some extent). While much of the tropics has embraced global commerce, and the economic self-empowerment it brings, the CNMI, with a patronage economy, has embraced, uh, talking (in either complaining, hectoring, demanding, or lecturing terms, depending on who is wagging their tongues) about how somebody ELSE ought to "do something."

The situation has been neatly summarized thusly: An Asian business owner defined Saipan as "a place where people sit in the dark and lecture each other on how to generate electricity." You have to admit (as you read these words by candle light) that's pretty funny.

And the behavior won't change. So the CNMI economy will continue to roll downhill. If you can predict behavior, you can predict economics. That's what economics is: behavior, as manifested in, and measured by, markets. See? Easy.

Well, this ain't my first rodeo. So I know this: As the slide continues, our massive inventory of talkers and gadflies will eventually polarize into different cliques that are mutually antagonistic. They'll all be shouting louder and louder that the others haven't "done enough" to "fix" everything. We'll have a bumper crop of shrill and angry sanctimony. Such is the dead end of the entitlement road.

Indeed, the CNMI is stuck in "R" for reverse, while so much of the world is racing ahead, or at least trying to. No wonder why the outside world seems so distant: It's going in the other direction.

▲ A scion of a local family had heard I'm a coffee hound, so he gave me a cup of coffee and asked me what I thought of it. Great stuff, I said. He beamed with pride: He told me that the coffee came from his family's plantation. They operated it themselves. Tended it themselves. ▀

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor**Problem solving is the problem**

Over the last three decades, I've observed and written extensively of local and regional events, large and small. The good ones I'd like to remember. The bad ones are best left to recede quietly with the tide of history.

Now, in most of my years in and out of government there's the perfectly honed problem solving that is focused on problem identification—NOT problem solving. This is nurtured with towering speeches from bureaucrats and politicians calling that we "address" the various issues before us. They conveniently avoid using the term "resolve".

After their grand use of the term "address", the issue is identified and forgotten until they return the next year to use the same term all over again. Call it "redundancy". Thus, we have captured and earned the trophy of atrophy for parroting the term "address" on the same issues dying of neglect year-in and year-out. Hardly do I hear that we've deferred for a change to "resolving" these issues. It has languished interminably at the address level.

And so we walk away from the occasion as though we just scored a 60 second knockout punch. We feel good for having heard a full round of applause. We're convinced concrete solutions are on the way from vacuous speeches. We never realize that "After all is said and done, a lot more is said than done".

More bad decisions

If Lt. Gov. Tim Villagomez is serious about making a run in 2009, someone needs to start advising him on some of his bad decision-making.

With our economy on the verge of collapse and our CNMI cofers high and dry, Tim gives 21 lawyers at the AG's office a pay raise by exempting them from the salary cap. And who is at the top of the list? Matt Gregory, of course! I guess this is Matt's reward for his outstanding service and commitment to our people! I don't know about you, but Matt Gregory deserves a pay raise about as much as Governor Fitial deserves a "Great Leaders of the World" award.

And how do they try to justify it? By stating that the government

Let them retire

At 10am this morning (July 10), Taotao Tano went before the Retirement Fund board, chaired by Juan T. Guerrero, during a scheduled meeting to address a critical matter concerning qualified Class 2 government employees who are due to retire but are unable and are held back due to the government's irresponsibility and failure to remit employer contributions in a timely manner to the Retirement Fund, and are treated as if they have no choice. This is wrong, and there is always an option within applicable laws to find solutions to this type of problems. Why should these employees who have worked 30 years or more be given the runaround for something they are owed? Why are they shouldering the burden of the government's incompetence, irresponsibility and ignorance? It is not right

NMC show cause activities update

Editor's Note: The following is an update issued by the Northern Marianas College on the status of its efforts to address accreditation concerns.

Special Report Update: Resolution of FY2006 Audit Findings:

As of this date, 11 of the 14 audit findings have been resolved. One of the most difficult findings, having to do with the Retirement Fund accumulated debt of about \$3 million has been corrected through the efforts of Governor Fitial's assumption of debt for FY2005-2006 and approval of PL 16-2 which reduces NMC's employer share to 11 percent from 36.77 percent.

Accomplishments since January 2008 Show Cause Letter:

Since February 2008, NMC has made every effort to communicate as widely as possible. Meetings were held with the Board of Regents, NMC Foundation, students, faculty, staff, Governor and executive department heads including the Public School System, House of Representatives and Senate, the communities of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. Press conferences were also held. Regular accreditation updates are provided to the community and are available on the FrontPage of NMC's new website at nmcnet.edu.

To ensure that the college stays on track with corrective actions, a compliance action plan and CAP financing worksheet was devel-

What superficial accolades, yeah?

The issues we have "addressed" are pregnant with empty answers. I liken it to the mud holes on coral roads paved every rainy season. We return after every rainstorm to pave it, time and again. We spend time, money and energy for decades returning to the same venues singing "fish and poi". A conundrum of some sort only found here in the islands? Is it related to the two seasons we meet annually?

The issue of problem solving is similar to the fighter in the ring. He alone knows the enemy pacing right in front of him. He goes through quick calculating moves to figure out his opponent. In the middle of any vicious exchange, he alone stands there to slug it out to the bitter end.

In other words, you and I who are outside the ring had no pain or nasty cuts or bloody nose to contend with. We all can yell what punch to throw, i.e., a left hook, combination of 1-2-3, a right upper cut, an over right hand, etc. Only the fighter in the ring can decide the best strategy for he alone faces the other fighter, alone in the ring. Is something amiss here?

The culture of disoriented demonstrations is the latest phenomenon on island not to mention empty demands for impeachment. I chuckle how ludicrous and childish the demonstrations and demands are aimed at sound bytes, you know, "hey, hey, hey, I'm TV

lawyers are paid "lower than their U.S. counterparts."

Tim, I am not sure if you are aware of this, but we have other government employees who are grossly underpaid. What about our hard-working CNMI nurses, who currently have to work their butts off up at CHC because there is only one nurse for every six patients? They are making considerably less than their counterparts in the U.S. And what about our police officers, who put their lives on the line each and every day? They are making about one-third the salary of their counterparts in the United States! And what about our teachers at PSS? How many of them have been waiting for their pay raises and have yet to receive them due to severe budget cuts?

that approximately 300-400 Class 2 qualified retirees have to bear someone else's mistake and failures. What we are dealing with here is people's livelihood and it is highly discriminatory and unjust and it's a shame that our Legislature has not acted or prioritized this critical issue. These are human beings, not machines, and machines do give out when they are overworked.

One solution currently pending before the House of Representative is to amend Public law 15-61 to allow the Northern Mariana Island Retirement Fund to pay pension proportionate to the employer contributions. We checked with the Legislature and Senate Bill 16-36 SD2 was passed by a majority of the Senate. It is now before a lower house committee for review as per the Speaker of the House

oped. The CAP consolidates all activities required with their timeframes for completion and the financial worksheet lists and tracks the funding requirements. These documents have been widely shared with the entire NMC community, the executive and legislative branches, and other interested parties.

NMC has enjoyed tremendous support from local, regional, and national levels. The Governor and the Legislature worked together to relieve NMC's \$3 million debt to the Retirement Fund. The Governor recently approved a reprogramming of \$800,000 towards the \$1.4 million required for urgent short-term facility renovation and repairs—with a commitment for the balance in the near future.

The U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, awarded NMC a \$375,000 operations and maintenance improvement program grant for consultative services to facilitate and support our program review, SLO, planning, and evaluation efforts to ensure that we meet the October deadline to report compliance with all recommendations. House Speaker Arnold Palacios sees NMC's accreditation as so critical that he appointed the chair of the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee, Rep. Ralph Torres, to be the NMC accreditation liaison.

We have also enjoyed the assistance of Dr. Wilson Hess, College of the Marshall Islands President, who visited the campus on a donated basis to meet with the college community and elected officials as well. With the support of the CMI Board of Regents, Dr. Hess continues to work closely with the NMC president. Dr. Rockne

again tonight". I giggle at their ability to congregate to question their own awareness. But it must be something to do while passing un-earned overtime.

The island is suffering from what I call the *Three Grain of Rice Syndrome* (TGRS). Remember the old story of a once filthy rich family that instantly must deal with abject poverty one dreadful morning? They woke up with nothing in the kitchen except three grains of rice. They made Pacific Soup to ensure that everybody eats. When a member accidentally swallowed one of three grains of rice, he was slammed on the neck viciously until he vomited and the rice returned to the pot. Are we getting anywhere?

The engines in the old power plant are about 30 years old. Repair for each is nothing less than \$2 million a piece. Do we keep it or procure another set of engines or privatize the entire system? In either case, it needs about \$16-plus million for another system to be emplaced. Where do we secure the funds for this basic infrastructure? Someone suggested we ought to ask the demonstrators to cough out the answer—mula for da kine need, yeah? Eh, we can all live happily ever after!

John DelRosario
Koblerville, Saipan

This is a slap in the face of every nurse, police officer, teacher, and other more deserving government employees who work hard and put in a great deal of time and effort, yet don't get proper compensation for it because the CNMI government is flat broke.

If this is the best you can do, I suggest you put aside your political ambitions and start thinking about launching a new career. If you want to win back our people's confidence in you, start making carefully calculated decisions that will have a positive impact on all of our people instead of the chosen few.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

Arnold Palacios during a brief meet this morning. We will pursue this matter and ensure the passage of this bill for it is the only right thing to do for this deserving and hardworking Class 2 government employees who are ready to retire.

As president of Taotao Tano I call on all Class 2 qualified to retire government employees to meet and discuss this important and critical issue. I encourage them to call us at 256-2325/285-1734 so that we may discuss and address this issue as a whole so that we may achieve our goals in getting them the assistance they need.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano

Frietas, Hawaii Community College president, has also assisted by providing a week-long facilitation of the strategic education master planning process.

We are thankful for the visit by Commissioner Floyd Takeuchi and President Dr. Barbara Beno in April. This visit was helpful in providing more clarity and understanding to the NMC community and elected leaders regarding our show cause status.

To signify the urgency of NMC's status, the BOR passed resolution no. 08-01: relative to declaring exigency relative to ACCJC show cause order and meets regularly to address any actions required for compliance. On May 2, the BOR exercised its authority under this resolution by approving emergency procurement of Key Trio Consultants to assist the college with program review, SLO's, planning, and evaluation.

Team Recommendation 1: Integration of planning, program review, and resource allocation based on wide community participation and driven by college mission and goals.






With the assistance of Key Trio, the students, faculty, staff, management, and BOR participated in visioning workshops. This helped to gauge participant's perception regarding NMC's current status and what the college's priorities should be for the next five years. This is the first step of the strategic education master planning process that will be completed by September 2008. The president attended all sessions.

See NMC on Page 4

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South wind around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼75

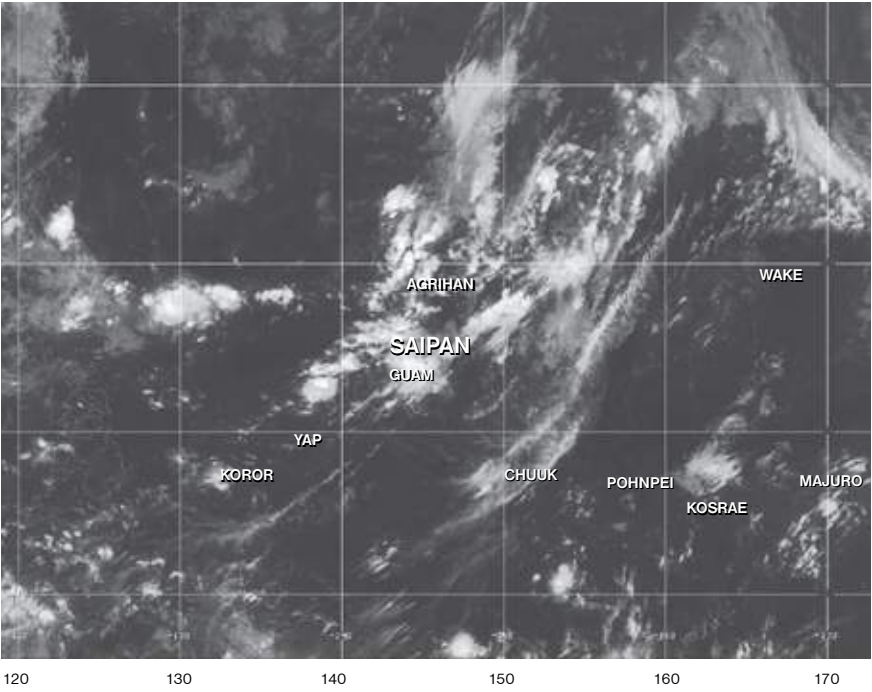
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲62 ▼51
Beijing	Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲84 ▼75
London	Showers	▲70 ▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84 ▼68
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼77
Melbourne	Windy	▲55 ▼46
Miami	Showers	▲90 ▼77
New York	Sunny	▲85 ▼71
Osaka	Cloudy	▲84 ▼73
Paris	Showers	▲74 ▼57
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲81 ▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲89 ▼65
Salem	Sunny	▲89 ▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼55
Seoul	Rain	▲79 ▼71
Tokyo	Rain	▲79 ▼69
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼69

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:25AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:49AM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
3:24PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:58PM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 4:20AM, THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A broad circulation is centered north of the Marianas near 22N142E with a trough extending from the center to 25N151E and beyond. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in the area bounded by 14N143E to 21N141E to 23N145E to 24N159E to 17N156E back to 14N143E including the Mariana Islands. Weak surface troughs are producing scattered showers near Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from 4N161E to 8N164E and east of Majuro between 5N and 7N from 173E to 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:54AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:54AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:54AM	6:51 PM
Tuesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:01PM	12:05AM
Saturday	1:51PM	12:43AM
Sunday	2:42PM	1:23AM
Monday	3:35PM	2:07AM
Tuesday	4:27PM	2:54AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NMC

From Page 11

Team Recommendation 2: "The team recommends again that the college institutionalize a coordinated, systematic process for evaluating program effectiveness. This process should include definitions of learning outcomes for all programs, a determination of program relationships to labor markets, and objective measures of student performance, which can inform and guide decisions to improve programs."

In January 2008, the campus was closed to allow for maximum participation at an all day assessment training with Dr. Ray Somera, Guam Community College Academic vice president. Agenda included a review of assessment activities and further training on completion of Memo 1, which is based on the Nichols and Nichols five-column model used by GCC.

Throughout the spring semester, the Program Review and Outcomes Assessment Committee members have been meeting with programs on an individual basis and a series of assessment workshops have been held for faculty, staff, and students. The BOR and NMC Foundations have also begun work on Form 1.

During the week of May 20, Dr. Alan Belcher of Key Trio met with all groups to discuss their Memo 1's. All groups were given feedback to improve

their memos as they work on Form 1 completion. The president attended all sessions.

The Academic Council, in Spring 2008, acted to place a number of certificate and degree programs on inactive status. Evidence used to guide the decision included examination of data on market demand, enrollment and graduation trends, program costs, and personnel costs. A total of 18 programs (out of a total of 51) were placed on inactive status. Many other programs are undergoing this analysis.

To date, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness has made strides in attaining and distributing Student Achievement Data (STA-Data) in support of program review. The following is data available or in the collection process:

1. Course completion data (available)
2. Retention term to term (available)
3. Progression to next course level (available)
4. Program completion (available)
5. Transfer to four-year institutions (available for liberal arts majors)
6. Degree/certificate completion (available)
7. Scores on licensure exams (NCLEX available; PRAXIS pending)
8. Job placement/post training (being collected)

A Student Satisfaction Survey, Graduating Student Sur-

vey, and Alumni Survey have been conducted and should be reported soon. An Employer Survey is being developed and will be deployed soon. The results of these surveys will be acted on for program/services improvement.

Team Recommendation 3: "The team recommends the college complete the cycle of developing, measuring, analyzing, and discussing student learning outcomes, and acting on the findings, as part of a continuous effort of improvement."

In fall 2007, the college institutionalized a program review/SLO process, based on the Nichols and Nichols five-column model, to operate on a two-year cycle. This process has now been accelerated so that all program reviews will be completed by early fall 2008 for reporting and linking to planning and budgeting. The following is the status of Form 1 submissions:

Group A (General education, Bachelor, and Associate Degree Programs): 46.67 percent

Group B (Certificate Programs): 27.78 percent

Group C (Student Services and Administrative Units): 20 percent

Group D (Special Programs and Services): 62.29 percent

All Form 1s were due June 23, 2008 and program review reports (Form 2) are due July 7.

PROAC is now working on reviewing the Form 1s already submitted.



COORDINATOR – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Responsibilities:

- Accuracy of accounting transactions relating to payroll, accounts payable, capital acquisitions, and inventory
- Analyze and process activity pertaining to PTI Corporate transactions in compliance with established corporate guidelines, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Regulatory bodies
- Coordinate accounting staff to provide accurate and timely analysis of accounting activity
- Provide management with reports relating to company's efficiency in areas of labor, materials and services

Requirements:

- Bachelor degree in finance/accounting required. CPA preferred
- 5 years progressive management experience in accounting, preferably in telephony accounting
- Experience with payroll processing and accounts payable, including enforcement of company policies and adherence to company procedures
- Effective oral and written communications skills
- Working experience with Microsoft Excel/Pivot Table, Microsoft Outlook and Word
- Technical knowledge of JD Edwards Accounting software
- Working knowledge of ABRA Suite Payroll system
- Understanding of banking operations and knowledge of ACH network for direct deposit payroll processing and FICA transmittals
- Knowledge of CNMI, Guam and US Federal taxes including compliance and form preparation of, but not limited to, Form 500, Quarterly withholding taxes, payroll taxes, etc.
- Able to work in a team

Human Resource Office
PTI
P. O. Box 500306
Saipan, MP 96950
670-234-6600

PTI is an Equal Employment Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Application must be received by PTI Human Resources on or before July 16, 2008.



SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2004 RAV-4 4DR. 4WD
Auto, Beige, Stock: U07-007T
License: ACB-455
Mileage: 41649
Price: \$15,699

REDUCED PRICE
\$14,999



USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
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TOYOTA SEDANS

R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	\$11,399	
U08-017P	2002	AVALON 4DR	AUTO	34812	BEIGE	ABW-469	\$14,699	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	\$15,999	

GM CARS

R08-005F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	114073	BLUE	ACB-544	\$6,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	\$9,599	\$7,599
R07-023F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	32635	WHITE	ABX-679	\$9,599	\$7,599
U08-032R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	27339	WHITE	ACD-506	\$8,699	
U08-033R	2005	EPICA 4DR SEDAN	AUTO	21118	BEIGE	ACD-486	\$8,699	
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	\$10,999	\$9,499

LEXUS

R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	\$29,999	\$28,999
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TOYOTA TRUCKS

R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	\$14,899	\$10,999
U08-014P	2004	TACOMA 4X2	MANUAL	44000	WHITE	ACA-948	\$12,499	\$11,999

OTHER CARS & TRUCKS

U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	\$8,999	\$7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX DR.	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	\$8,999	\$7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	\$10,999	\$8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	\$16,799	\$15,299
U08-035T	2000	NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4DR SDN	AUTO	64846	GREEN	ABS-748	\$6,999	
U08-038T	2001	NISSAN MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	\$7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENNIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	SILVER	ABP-583	\$7,999	\$7,099

GM SPORT UTILITY

U08-036T	2002	TRAILBLAZER 4WD	AUTO	36460	RED	ACB-993	\$9,999	
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SPORT UTILITY

U07-064T	2001	4RUNNER 4WD	AUTO	56882	CHAMPAIGNE	ABY-153	\$14,599	\$12,599
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	\$13,099	\$12,799
U07-007T	2004	RAV4 4DR. 4WD	AUTO	41649	BEIGE	ACB-455	\$15,099	\$14,999
R08-007F	2006	RAV4 4DR 2WD LTD	AUTO	20311	WHITE	ACE-344	\$19,185	\$19,099



MICROL TOYOTA

Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: **234-5911** | Fax: **234-6514** | www.microlsaipan.com

Grey to speak on how to prepare for federalization

Melvin L. Grey, director of Immigration for the CNMI, will be speaking to human resource professionals on the island Thursday next week on how companies can prepare for the impending

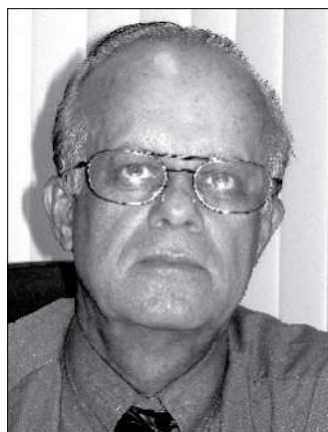
takeover of local immigration policies by the federal government.

Grey will be the guest speaker during the Society for Human Resource Management's

monthly Chapter meeting and his topic is called *Tips on How to Prepare Your Business for Federalization*.

With the implementation of federal immigration eminent around the corner, many businesses in the CNMI are unprepared for the disruption that the new laws will bring. Business owners as well as human resource professionals will need to prepare effective strategies to minimize federalization's profound impact on their respective organizations.

"With the fragile economic conditions also facing the CNMI, there is a need to educate all areas of our community on how to prepare for the new immigration system. This is a reality that will significantly af-



Grey

fect the workplace in the CNMI. This is one meeting you do not want to miss," said the group in a statement issued yesterday.

The Chapter meeting will be held at Charley's Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club, on July 17,

2008. Doors open at 11:15am for registration. Cost for members is \$15 and \$20 for non-SHRM members (government purchase orders accepted). Cost includes lunch. Reservations are requested. Individuals interested in attending this meeting should contact Frannie T. Salas at e-mail francestsalas@gmail.com, Polly Deleon Guerrero at e-mail pdlguerrero@mymarianas.com or Tommy Kennington at PIC's HR department at 234-7976.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 200,000 individual mem-

bers, the Society's mission is to serve the needs of HR professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive resources available. As an influential voice, the Society's mission is also to advance the human resource profession to ensure that HR is recognized as an essential partner in developing and executing organizational strategy. The CNMI Chapter is composed of human resource professionals from a variety of industries, large and small, who recognize a need for a local society for professionals in the human resource field. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (*SHRM*)

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-DPS-074
Submission/Opening Date: July 29, 2008 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

**"PURCHASE OF POLICE UNIFORMS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA
COMMISSIONER, DPS
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

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Fill up your Lucky 7 Passport and hurry into any Shell station today to redeem your Lucky 7 Passport and receive a **FREE** 20 oz bottle of Foremost Crystal Clear Water and a coupon for a **FREE** Mini 4" Subway Sandwich. Offer valid on Saipan for a limited time while supplies last.



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Don't gas up without it!
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DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN INC., Plaintiff, v. JOAN M. SABLAN, Defendant.	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0154 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
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TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: JOAN M. SABLAN
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this 11th day of June, 2008.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
ARRIVAL VENTURES LTD.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

ARRIVAL VENTURES LTD., Plaintiff, v. REPUBLIC OF NAURU FINANCE CORPORATION, REPUBLIC OF NAURU NAURU CORPORATION (GUAM), NAURU PHOSPHATE ROYALTIES TRUST, NAURU PHOSPHATE CORPORATION and DOES 1-5 Inclusive, Defendants.	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0175 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
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TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:
REPUBLIC OF NAURU FINANCE CORPORATION
REPUBLIC OF NAURU
NAURU CORPORATION (GUAM)
NAURU PHOSPHATE ROYALTIES TRUST
NAURU PHOSPHATE CORPORATION
DOES 1-5 INCLUSIVE
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this ___ day of July, 2008.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES

SERVICES REQUIRED
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is inviting interested insurance brokers, singularly or in partnership with others, to submit technical proposals for providing insurance brokerage services to CPA. Interested insurance brokers must be licensed in the Northern Mariana Islands and have a current business license.

THE PROCESS
The process will consist of the receipt and evaluation of sealed proposals for technical services. The proposals should demonstrate the ability of the brokers to perform and provide the services enumerated in the Scope of Services stipulated in the Request For Proposal (RFP). At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the highest rated broker will be selected to negotiate fees for services with CPA. If successful, the broker will be appointed as CPA's exclusive insurance representative on a year-to-year basis for a period not to exceed five years.

SCOPE OF SERVICES
The selected broker shall assist CPA in obtaining insurance coverages consisting of Airport and Seaport Property and Liability insurance, Automobile, Crime, and Director's & Officer's Liability insurance and providing such other services as may be subsequently negotiated.

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE
Proposal packages will be available beginning Monday, June 30, 2008, at the CPA Administrative Offices, Saipan International Airport, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, excluding Holidays. Five copies of the sealed proposals shall be submitted to Mr. Lee C. Cabrera, Acting Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, POB 1055, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, July 21, 2008.

EVALUATION
The factors to be used in evaluating the proposals shall be the criteria set forth in the RFP. Each criteria will be assigned a grading up to ten points; the proposer receiving the highest overall score will be selected to negotiate a fee for services. The CPA reserves the right to reject any proposals in accordance with Section 3.2(7) of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Frances Mafnas, Acting Comptroller, at 664-3524 anytime during the hours stated above.

/s/ LEE C. CABRERA
Acting Executive Director/Contracting Officer

17 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 17 beach sites on Saipan after water samples collected showed excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria.

The affected areas are the Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Samoa Housing, Hafa Adai Hotel, Hafa Adai Drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Diamond Hotel, Sugar Dock, CK Dist #2 Drainage, CK Dist #4 Drainage, Hopwood School Beach, San Antonio Beach, Pacific Islands Club Beach, and San Antonio Lift Station.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations contained concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. However, studies have shown water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment.

To address public health concerns, DEQ has given these locations a red flag and advises the public not to fish or swim within the 300 feet of these sites for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages every Wednesday. This week, samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions. (DEQ)

Free bird posters at DFW

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is once again making available two popular posters with the birds of the CNMI and Guam. The two available posters are "Forest and Land Birds of the CNMI and Guam" and "Seabirds of the CNMI and Guam."

The CNMI has 14 native birds, 10 of which are endemic meaning they only occur in the Mariana Islands and nowhere else in the world. Five of the endemic species are considered endangered of extinction.

Bird watching or "birding" (as it is known throughout the international community) is a great family activity in the summer while children are out of school. The posters can assist with bird identification by sight. Once birds are known by sight they can be observed to learn each of their individual songs. Birding is best done in the mornings before 10 am and in the evenings after 4:30 when it is cooler as birds are more active at these times.

The two bird posters are available at the Division of Fish and Wildlife Lower base office. (DFW)

Palau president arrives on Saipan tomorrow

Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. will be visiting Saipan tomorrow, July 12, and wants to meet with all Palauans residing in the CNMI.

The meeting will be held at the Carolinian Utt on Saipan, from 6pm to 10pm.

Remengesau is due to arrive Saturday morning from Palau and will leave Saipan Sunday morning for Guam, where he is also due to meet with Palauan citizens residing in the territory.

Consul Eileen N. Kintol declined to specify the reason for Remengesau's trip to the islands, besides saying that this is probably part of the president's regular visits to his constituents.

The last time the Palauan president visited the Commonwealth was in November 2007, during the 8th Western Micronesian Chief Executive Summit.

During that visit, Remengesau also led the groundbreaking ceremony for the "abai"—or community hall—that is being built on the 5,000 square meters of land on Navy Hill that was donated by the CNMI government to the Palauan community.



Remengesau

GENERAL ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

QUALIFICATIONS:

2 years work experience, knowledgeable in Quickbooks, can analyze, examine accounting records and financial statements. Prepare and compute taxes, attendance and payroll for employees.

**IF INTERESTED
Please call 2354000**

Saipan Ice & Water Co., Inc.
has immediate openings for the following position:

**INVENTORY CLERK-(1)
PURCHASING AGENT-(1)
DELIVERY MAN-(4)
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CLERK-(1)**

Apply in person or bring resume to
Saipan Ice and Water Co., Inc. in Lower Base
E-mail spnice@pticom.com

 **SAIPAN ICE & WATER CO., INC.**
Tel.: (670) 322-6130/9455

**Position Available
LEGAL SECRETARY**

We're looking for an experienced legal secretary for a busy law office. Are you someone with at least one year's experience as a legal secretary, or two years' experience as a secretary; excellent computer and communications skills; and some knowledge of accounting or bookkeeping? Are you looking for an interesting and challenging position? Are you a US citizen or permanent resident, or have CNMI immediate relative status? If so, you could be the person we want. The salary is excellent, depending on your experience and qualifications.

Please stop in to our office at the Joeten Center in Susupe, to complete an application.
No telephone calls, please.

The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC



2008 Summer Sales Event

The All-New Altima

Luxury. Now available to all.



Push Button Ignition. Intelligent Key. Available Bluetooth® Hands-Free Phone System. Bringing performance and luxury to drivers everywhere.



The All-New '09 Nissan Murano

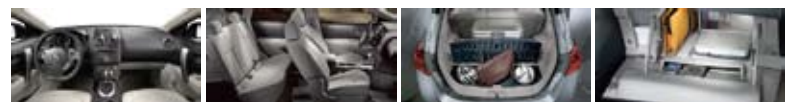
IN STOCK NOW!

Introducing Rogue

A whole new crossover



The All-New Nissan Rogue with available intuitive All-Wheel Drive, extra-smart storage and a street-savvy 27 miles per gallon. Driving is fun again.



2007 MODELS CLEARANCE

NISSAN	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	KIA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Versa HB	#7L360734	Blue	\$15,990.00	Rio	#7620237	White	\$12,995.00
Versa S	#7L398849	White	\$15,990.00	Sportage	#77354358	Jade	\$17,695.00
Frontier SE	#7C408903	Silver	\$26,990.00	Sorento	#6560608	Green	\$18,995.00
FORD	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE	HONDA	STOCK #	COLOR	PRICE
Ranger	#7PA3111	White	\$16,990.00	Fit	#7S031086	Silver	\$14,995.00
Fusion	#7R114053	White	\$19,990.00	Fit Sport	#7S03110	White	\$16,495.00
Escape	#7KB29539	White	\$19,990.00	Civic DX	#7L061948	White	\$16,995.00
F-150	#6NB057	White	\$21,990.00	Ridgeline	#6H56662	Silver	\$20,990.00



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TEL. 234-5562

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Muña takes command of E Company at Fort Knox

FORT KNOX, Kentucky—Standing proudly before 280 soldiers, friends and family members, Capt. Alfred M. Muña from the CNMI took command of the 76th Engineer Company (Steel Hammers) of the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox, Kentucky on July 1, 2008.

Among the friends and family members from the CNMI and the U.S. mainland who made the journey to Fort Knox to attend the change of command ceremony were Muña's parents, retired Sergeant Major Jesus C. and Dorothea C. Muña of Saipan, his sister Geraldine M. Mendiola with her husband SFC/E-7 Mark A. Mendiola and sons Mark Jr. and Michael, and sister Caroline and her husband Jered Lutu and daughter Jaydin.

Ed Pangelinan, a good family friend, also attended.

"Our people in the CNMI join me in extending our congratulations and best wishes upon your assumption of duty and responsibility as the company commander for the Steel Hammers at Fort Knox. We thank you for your service to our great Nation, and applaud your accomplishments with the United States Army," said Resident Representative Pedro A. Tenorio.

Muña graduated from the University of Guam, earning a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 2001. His military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course and the Engineer Captain Career Course.

His duty assignments include service with the 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas from April 2002 to June 2005. He also served as a Mechanized Engineer Platoon Leader for sixteen months with B Company and the Assault and Obstacle Platoon Leader for nine months with C Company. While the A&O Platoon Leader for C Company, he was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom II from March 2004 to March 2005.

In January 2006, Muña became the Battalion S4 (Logistics Officer) immediately upon arriving at the newly activated 19th Engineer Battalion. In August 2006, he deployed with the battalion as the S4 for 15 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was subse-

quently stationed to Fort Knox in November 2007.

Muña's military awards and decorations include the Combat Action Badge, Airborne Parachutist Badge, Army Commen-

dation Medal (3 OLC), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Ser-

vice Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon (2 NUM).

He is married to Grace Alvarez of Dededo, Guam. They have two children, Alfred Jr., 8, and Gabriella, 5. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Capt. Alfred M. Muña is surrounded by family and friends shortly after the change of command ceremony placing him in command of the 76th Engineer Company (Steel Hammers) of the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox, Kentucky.



Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188
Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net
Web: <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net>

SCHEDULING FAIR

This is to inform all Mount Carmel High School students that there will be a scheduling fair on Friday, July 18, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to be held on the first floor at the high school building Listed below are the scheduled time for respective grade level:

<u>Grade Level:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
Seniors -12th Grade	8:00 a.m.
Juniors-11th Grade	9:00 a.m.
Sophomores-10th Grade	10:00 a.m.
Freshmen-9th Grade	11:00 a.m.

Please be informed that all students who are to attend the scheduling fair are required to pay \$200.00 registration deposit.

Any question(s), pertaining to this announcement may contact the Vice Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Bobby Baldazo at telephone no. 235-1256.

/s/ Margaret C. Dela Cruz
President, Mount Carmel School, Inc.

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges



CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Responsibilities:

- Directs and coordinates the daily activities of billing, sales, quality (internal and external) and call handling efficiency of all Customer Service/Contact work force toward achieving departmental and company objectives
- Responds to miscellaneous information requests and provides 24-hours customer access to the PTI complaint management process
- Supervises the tri-language, multiple-shift center to ensure that all division objectives are met or exceeded with the highest customer satisfaction as a primary target
- Perform supervisory duties that include interviewing/hiring, coaching, counseling, monitoring attendance, taking disciplinary action, preparing performance appraisals, timekeeping and promoting employee involvement

Requirements:

- Associate's degree from an accredited college in marketing, public relations, business management or related field, or a high school diploma and two years additional related work experience
- Five years customer contact experience
- Knowledge of performance management and motivation techniques, leadership theories and practices, and principles and concepts of team building, strategic planning and resource management
- Skilled in analyzing performance results to determine methods of improving service; preparing written reports, statistics and analyses; supervising employees in a labor-intensive, customer service work environment; using personal computer hardware and Microsoft software programs
- Ability to communicate clearly, concisely and accurately with all levels of staff and customers, both verbally and in writing; supervise and motivate customer service staff; learn the job-specific aspects of various computer hardware and software; make logical and sound decisions in the resolution of difficult and complex situations; create a team environment and maintain employee morale; perform in a self-directed, hard-working, creative and forward thinking manner

Human Resource Office
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Pacific

Overfishing blamed for decline in Hawaii's reef fish

By **KENNETH R. WEISS**
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sharks, jacks, parrot fish and other colorful reef fish are quickly disappearing from coral reefs encircling the Hawaiian Islands, federal scientists reported Tuesday.

The scientists blamed overfishing for the steep decline, which affects three-quarters of the species once commonly found on coral reefs that support subsistence fishermen.

Many of these fish, ecologists say, are key to maintaining healthy coral reefs because they keep reefs clean by grazing on algae that can quickly overgrow the stony corals and cause them to collapse.

Alan Friedlander, a federal fisheries ecologist, said Hawaii still has relatively healthy reefs. "So everything hasn't collapsed yet," he said. "But we need to protect healthy reefs because it's so much easier and safer to conserve now than it is to try to rebuild later."

The results of the study, the most comprehensive examination of Hawaiian reef fish, was released at the International Coral Reef Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Nearly 3,000 scientists, managers and conservationists congregated there to pore over the latest science and wrestle with ways to protect the world's coral reefs, which are in a state of steep decline.

Many prominent scientists

believe that overfishing represents one of greatest challenges to maintaining and restoring healthy coral reefs.

Daniel Pauly, director of the University of British Columbia's Fisheries Centre, pointed out Tuesday that international authorities and local governments on Pacific island nations have little understanding of how many fish are being removed from coral reefs by small-scale subsistence fishermen.

For the most part, catch data compiled by American Samoa and island nations, do not incorporate all of the small-boat fishermen who paddle or motor out to catch fish for themselves and their families. Comparing census data of per-person fish consumption and other sources, Pauly and his team of researchers discovered that in some cases the unreported catches were 17 times higher than reported catches. On average, they were at least twice as high.

Reconstructing a clearer picture of historic catches, Dirk Zeller and Jennifer Jacquet at the Fisheries Centre found that domestic catches have declined between 54 percent and 86 percent since the 1950s.

This finding is important, Pauly said, because such fish catch data help determine if countries should sell fishing rights to foreign fishing fleets. If the local reliance on fish is underestimated, such deals can come at the expense of an im-

portant local source of protein.

"Coral reef fisheries," Pauly said, are "very important because they are supporting millions of people in the developing world." He said that countries and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization need to pay attention to these unreported catches to assure food security of isolated islands struggling with rising prices for imported food as fuel costs escalate.

The study also found that Hawaii's unreported recreational fisheries for reef fish and deep-dwelling bottom fish was equivalent to the total reported commercial catch.

"Overfishing is often dis-

puted in Hawaii and elsewhere because catch data is underreported or spotty," Friedlander said.

The study conducted by Friedlander and his colleagues from the Oceanic Institute and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Biogeography Branch on Oahu got around this problem by diving into the water and meticulously counting fish.

Teams of divers looked at 55 species of fish found on coral reefs around the main Hawaiian Islands as well as the remote and largely un-fished northwest Hawaiian islands, which lie hundreds of miles farther north and west of Kauai.

Comparing the fish count at both places, the divers determined that 75 percent of the species around the main islands, such as Oahu, Maui and the Big Island, were in critical condition or depleted. Another 11 percent were below desirable levels.

Friedlander said Hawaii would be well served by tightening fishing regulations. He also said it would be beneficial to set aside no-fishing reserves to conserve coral reefs, helping to ensure that reef fish don't disappear for future generations.

"Probably in Hawaii, more than anywhere else in the United States, people rely on fish to feed themselves and their families," Friedlander said.



IRAQ CASUALTY

Specialist William McMillan III, 22, of Lexington KY was killed Tuesday July 8, 2008 in Iraq according to his family. McMillan is pictured with his wife Elizabeth at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii on the day he left for Iraq Dec. 7, 2007.

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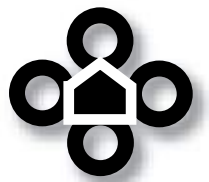
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American Samoan Marine dies in Iraq

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Lieutenant Colonel Max Galea'i is the first

American Samoan marine casualty of the war in Iraq. His funeral services over the

next two days will be the first time that the territory has witnessed the full funeral honours

accorded by the US marines to fallen comrades.

Lt. Colonel Galea'I, who was 42, was killed June 26th in Anbar Province in a suicide bomb attack along with two other Marines.

A 17 member marine hon-

our guard flew in on a military aircraft to perform the funeral honors.

Staff Sgt. Bryan Eiguez leads the group:

"We will be here on island to lay him to rest in a military fashion. We will perform a 21 gun

salute. We will do a flag folding presentation to his mother and his wife. And we will also prepare full honours and perform some other ceremonial activities. All our marines here,, all 17 of us, will be in the dress blue uniform and pay full respects."



FINAL EXERCISE

In this image provided by the US Navy visitors to Naval Station Pearl Harbor look on as the aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk* ties up at pier Tuesday July 1, 2008 prior to starting the Rim of the Pacific exercise. This will be the final exercise for Kitty Hawk before returning to the U.S. mainland for decommissioning in early 2009.

AP

Solomon Islands plan to grow rice

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—The National government is embarking on a national rice plantation project.

Prime Minister Dr Derek Sikua revealed this at the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the country's independence, Monday.

More than six thousands people witnessed the ceremony, which lasted for more than five hours.

Dr Sikua said with the growing price in fuel and food especially rice, government has not laid a blind eye on it.

"It is addressing that with plans to have a national rice plantation," he said.

Dr Sikua said the issue will go before the parliament during this month's sitting.

"It will be catered for under the July 2008 supplementary budget," he said.

Dr Sikua said the project

should enable the government to spread out the rice project throughout the country to help local farmers to eat and sell.

He said the project is part of the government's approach to addressing the increasing cost of food and agriculture.

Dr Sikua appealed to organisations and individuals to help them provide ideas on how this can be best done.

Solomon Islands currently imports rice from Australia.

Developer to build \$400M resort on Savaii

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (Radio New Zealand International, July 9, 2008) — A Hawaii-based company, the South Pacific Development Group, has sealed an agreement with the village of Sasina in Samoa to lease 600 acres of customary land for the construction of a multimillion resort on Savaii Island.

Savaii, Samoa's 'Big Island' to the northwest of Upolu, is a rural community known for its lack of western development and its adherence to ancient traditions. According to the company's website, South

Pacific Development Group is committed to "show the rest of the world what can be done in terms of building highly profitable development ventures while still preserving the environment and culture."

The company representative to sign the deal, Jesse James, says the first part of the project will be the construction of a 150-room resort at a cost of about US\$150 million.

The total cost for the whole project, which will later include a harbour, a helicopter service and a golf course, is estimated between US\$400

and US\$500 million.

The lease is set for 120 years according to the Member of Parliament representing Sasina village in parliament, Laauli Leuataea Polataivao Fossie Schmidt.

However, he says it will be reviewed every 30 years.

The first payment for 2008 land lease of US\$120,000 was presented to the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment on behalf of the village after the agreement was signed.

Work on the project is expected to start next year.

New Fiji TV station to broadcast al-Jazeera

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Customers of Fiji's newest television company, Mai TV will be able to see Arabic news service Al Jazeera International from tonight.

Mai TV chief executive officer Richard Broadbridge said the company has secured free to air rights to Al Jazeera International to bring international news and current affairs.

Broadbridge said the service is a 24-hour English-language news and current affairs TV channel headquartered in Doha, Qatar.

It is one of the three largest English-language news channels worldwide, and is the sister channel of the Arab-language Al Jazeera.

Currently, Mai TV services are available free to the people

of Suva, then Nadi and Lautoka followed by Labasa and Savasavu next year, said Broadbridge.

The station broadcasts news features and analysis, documentaries, live debates, current affairs, business, and sports.

Al Jazeera International airs on Mai TV from 10.30pm to 11am daily while German/English service Deutsche Welle will broadcast for only 3 hours daily.

Fijian delegation to study biofuel in China

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—The Fiji embassy in Beijing has reported that a Fijian delegation comprising the acting permanent secretary for agriculture, Dr Richard Beyer, as well Mr Viliame Yabakivou, Mr Alik Turagakula and Mr Viliame Vosarogo from the Ministry of Energy are on their way to China to research how ethanol is made from cassava.

The delegation will see first-hand and learn how Chinese farmers in Guangxi Province mechanize the planting and harvesting of cassava.

According to Red Orbit, the delegation will also observe how the farmers are able to produce the kind of size and variety

of cassava they do for their ethanol production facilities.

The task force delegation will learn how cassava is converted into ethanol and starch, as well as and how many useful by-products result from the process.

The Fiji team will see and learn how edible cassava starch may be used for making paper.

This will add value to our sugar industry.

The team will visit a mill that converts sugar cane "bagass" into an expensive variety of paper that is sold on the world markets.

High-quality paper is in global short supply at present. Bagass, which is presently used

in Fiji sugar mills for producing energy, has been regarded as a waste raw material.

The delegation will specifically visit sugar cane farms to see the variety of sugar cane that is planted in Guangxi Province and how their mills are capable of producing more than 8m tonnes of sugar each year for the domestic China market.

This output accounts for 60 per cent of China's domestic needs.

According to the ambassador Sir James Ah Koy, several companies have shown interest in the two projects and feasibility on the soundness of their respective investments are now being considered.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Air traffic controller shortage in Australia

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Commercial pilots were flying blind east of Sydney last night because a chronic shortage of air traffic controllers for flights from Honolulu, Fiji and some between Australia and New Zealand. This happened because controllers were unavailable due to sick leave and no off-duty replacements were available, reports Sydney Morning Herald. A spokeswoman for Airservices Australia confirmed that an area from Nowra to Coffs Harbour and 280 kilometres offshore was unmonitored from 5:30pm to 6:15pm and 8pm to 10:15pm. It was the third night in a row that responsibility for avoiding midair collisions in some parts of the country fell to pilots, with similar outages over south-west, New South Wales and Queensland on Sunday and Monday respectively.

Vanuatu pulls out of A. Samoa festival

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Vanuatu has withdrawn from the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts being held in American Samoa later this month because of a lack of funding. But the organizing committee is offering to sponsor two artists from Vanuatu to attend the festival which runs from July 20th - August 2nd. The Festival co-chair, Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde, says the committee was informed yesterday that due to lack of government support, Vanuatu has had to cancel plans to send a delegation. Fagafaga says they did not want any of the countries to miss out so it's offering to pay for two people from Vanuatu. He says the selection of the artists is up to Vanuatu. The hosts have been hoping for the first time to have all 27 member countries of the Pacific Community attending the arts festival.

Papua New Guinea police posers to be 'shot on sight'

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—Police throughout the country were yesterday ordered to "shoot to kill" criminals posing as policemen on sight. "They will be shot on sight if they are seen committing a crime in police uniform," Police Commissioner Gari Baki told reporters yesterday. While over at the National Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister

Dr Puka Temu announced that the Government had approved the immediate release of K3.2 million [US\$1.22 million] to set up a special National Capital District (NCD) police task force with the necessary firepower to combat an advanced crime wave hitting PNG. Dr Temu said Cabinet would meet again today to consider a separate budget proposals for funding to be submitted by Police Minister Sani Rambai and Commissioner Gari Baki.

Race against time for Cooks sports complex

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands New/PIR)—It will be a race against time to get the controversial multi-sports indoor complex up and ready for the World Netball Youth championships next July. With excavation work yet to begin and the environmental impact assessment process still to go through, Cook Islands Investment Corporation chief executive John Tini admits that they are pushed for time. Tini says that there could be opposition to the building at the EIA stage, but that is to be expected. "We're taking it as it comes, we've been through a lot of storms up to now. "But they've signed the construction contract and we can only move forward from here." The excavation phase will get underway next month, which Tini says will be overseen by both Cook Islands-based and Chinese engineers.

Fiji's Air Pacific to offer weekly service to Tuvalu

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—From July 24, Air Pacific will service Tuvalu with a weekly flight to Funafuti. The airline's executive office yesterday made the announcement saying flights would be as low as \$349 one way with taxes and surcharge of \$136. The press statement revealed that the route would be serviced by Pacific Sun's ATR 42 aircraft which would be flying out the country every Tuesday can seat up to 44 passengers. The airline also plans to commence a second weekly service by mid-August. Reservations for flights to Funafuti could be made through Air Pacific's website, <http://www.airpacific.com> Air Pacific's reservations office or the Tuvalu Travel Office in Tuvalu. Fiji Live quotes Air Pacific Group chairman Nalin Patel says the airline is examining further international destinations.

Island Snapshots



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Belated happy birthday to Ley-anna Marie L. Cabrera, who celebrated her special day on June 26, 2008. Love, Mommy Daddy Tun, Leilani, Leina and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Kimberly Marie M. Lizama, who celebrated her birthday on July 10, 2008. Greetings with love come from Nana, Tun, Nini, Leina and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Welcome to the world, baby Leina L. Cabrera, and a belated happy birthday to Grandma Tona, who celebrated her special day on June 27, 2008. Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Macoi Aguda of Shirley's Restaurant, who celebrated his birthday on July 9, 2008. Greetings come from your friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PEPSI PROMO WINNER

Pacific Trading Co. representative Mike Babauta, right, presents Josh with an iPod iTouch that he won as part of Pepsi's Twist and Win summer promotion. Josh was brought over to the PTC office by his mom to claim the prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HONORARY TOURISM ENVOY

Senator Paul Manglona, left, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, center, present Goro Noguchi, right, with a certificate designating him as an honorary CNMI tourism ambassador. Noguchi was married on Rota in 2001 at the Honey Garden, which belongs to Manglona's family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MISS LIBERATION QUEEN

2008 Liberation Day Queen Kaylynn Angelynn L. Sablan, 16, hugs her twin sister after receiving her crown from Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela during the 2008 Liberation Day Queen Coronation night at the Garapan Fishing Base festival ground Wednesday last week.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



NEW ARRIVALS

Tourists gather at the arrival area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Wednesday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



ECO CAMP

Sea Turtles play freeze frame at the Eco Camp, currently ongoing at the Mariana Resort and Spa in Marpi.

VINCE ASANUMA

Business

Northwest Airlines to cut 2,500 jobs

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Northwest Airlines Corp. said on Wednesday it will cut 2,500 jobs because of high oil prices, and will soon begin charging \$15 to check luggage and up to \$100 to redeem a frequent-flier award ticket.

The airline said it expects the new fees to add \$250 million to \$300 million a year in revenue.

Northwest said the job cuts—which represent about 8.3 percent of its work force—will include front-line and management workers. It said it will start with voluntary departures and leaving open jobs unfilled before moving to furloughs to reach the 2,500 total. Northwest had said previously it would have fewer workers after it

cuts 8.5 percent to 9.5 percent of mainline flying in the fourth quarter of this year. It has said overall capacity would shrink 3 percent to 4 percent because it is adding regional seats. As of the end of 2007, Northwest employed about 30,000 people. President and Chief Executive Doug Steenland said Northwest's fuel costs have more than

doubled in the past year.

"These reductions are the direct result of our extraordinary fuel costs and the necessary actions we must take to right-size our airline and eliminate unprofitable flying," Steenland said in a written statement.

Northwest also said it would begin charging \$15 for the first checked bag, matching a fee announced earlier this year by US Airways, American

Airlines, and United Airlines. Northwest's new fee applies to tickets sold after Thursday for travel starting Aug. 28 in the U.S. or to Canada.

Northwest also announced a fee for issuing frequent-flier tickets beginning Sept. 15. It said it will charge \$25 for domestic tickets, \$50 for trans-Atlantic tickets and \$100 for trans-Pacific tickets. Steenland called the service fee temporary.



In this April 23, 2008 file photo, Northwest Airlines skycap Lori Barnett, left, checks in passenger Scott Jennings for a flight at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis.

Salmonella infects over 1,000; peppers now eyed

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 1,000 people now have become ill from salmonella initially linked to raw tomatoes, a sobering milestone Wednesday that makes this the worst food-borne outbreak in at least a decade. Adding to the confusion, the government is warning certain people to avoid types of hot peppers, too.

Certain raw tomatoes - red round, plum and Roma - remain a chief suspect and the government stressed again Wednesday that all consumers should avoid them unless they were harvested in areas cleared of suspicion.

But people at highest risk of severe illness from salmonella also should not eat raw jalapeno and serrano peppers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged Wednesday. The most vulnerable are the elderly, people with weak immune systems and infants.

Raw jalapenos caused some of the illnesses, conclude CDC investigations of two clusters of sick people who ate at the same restaurant or catered event.

But jalapenos cannot be the sole culprit - because many of the ill insist they didn't eat hot peppers or foods like salsa that contain them, CDC food safety

chief Dr. Robert Tauxe told The Associated Press. As for serrano peppers, that was included in the warning because they're difficult for consumers to tell apart.

In some clusters of illnesses, jalapenos "simply were not on the menu," Tauxe said. "We are quite sure that neither tomatoes nor jalapenos explain the entire outbreak at this point. ... We're presuming that both of them have caused illness."

That has Food and Drug Administration inspectors looking hard for farms that may have grown tomatoes earlier in the spring and then switched to pepper harvesting, or for distribution centers that handled both types of produce.

Oil adds a penny on US data, Iran missile tests

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices finished about where they began Wednesday after jumping more than \$2 earlier on reports of lower U.S. oil stockpiles and an Iranian missile test.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery rose a penny to settle at \$136.05 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, but prices shifted between positive and negative territory as traders parsed details of the inventory report following its midmorning release. In aftermarket trading, oil prices fell 40 cents to \$135.64 a barrel.

The moves follow two days of steep declines that left prices 6.4 percent below last week's record high.

Figures from the Energy Information Administration showed U.S. oil supplies fell by 5.9 million barrels last

week, a decline of 2 percent. That is far above the 1.9 million barrels forecast by analysts surveyed by the energy research firm Platts.

Prices often rise in response considerably to large drops in U.S. oil supplies. But Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates, noted that much of this week's inventory decline was concentrated on the West Coast and was not representative of supplies overall.

"Whenever it's out on the West Coast region, the impact is blunted appreciably," he said.

In addition, gasoline stockpiles rose more than expected, partly offsetting the decline in crude. Inventories of distillate fuel, which include diesel and heating oil, also rose, but less than analysts anticipated.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

A-B asks shareholders to reject InBev proposal

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. is asking its shareholders to reject a proposal from Belgian brewer InBev to replace Anheuser-Busch's board of directors. On Wednesday, Anheuser-Busch filed a consent solicitation with the Securities and Exchange Commission that outlines why shareholders should reject InBev's proposal. The filing says Anheuser-Busch should keep its current board because it will represent the interests of shareholders more than a board that is hand-picked by InBev.

Steve & Barry's files for bankruptcy protection

NEW YORK (AP)—Steve & Barry's LLC, once a growing force in low-priced fashion retailing, said Wednesday that it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the latest merchant to succumb to a harsh consumer spending climate. It also announced that it was considering a plan to sell all or some of its assets to repay outstanding debt, and was eliminating 172 corporate and field staff positions immediately. Wendi Kopsick, a spokeswoman for the company, said no decision had been made about possible store closures. The Port Washington, N.Y.-based chain operates 276 locations in 39 states.

Wachovia confirms Steel to lead bank

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Wachovia Corp., the nation's fourth-largest bank, named Treasury Undersecretary Robert Steel chief executive on Wednesday, ending a nearly six-week search for a new leader. The Charlotte-based bank also said it has set aside \$4.2 billion pretax to cover bad loans for the quarter, leading to an estimated second-quarter loss of about \$2.6 billion to \$2.8 billion.

The quarterly loss will equal \$1.23 to \$1.33 per share, excluding an expected write-down of goodwill. Analysts polled by Thomson Financial expected a profit. Wachovia is expected to release second-quarter earnings on July 22. Steel succeeds Ken Thompson, who was ousted by the bank's board in June after a series of missteps.

Stocks tumble on uneasiness about financials

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street tumbled Wednesday as investors grappled with renewed worries about the soundness of the financial sector. The major indexes fell more than 2 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which lost more than 230 points.

While many financial services companies logged steep declines during the session, government-sponsored lenders Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae were among those hardest hit. Investors are

worried that the mortgage finance companies will have to sell more shares than anticipated to compensate for losses from the housing slump. Merrill Lynch & Co. also dropped, after Fitch Ratings put its long-term credit default rating on watch for a possible downgrade.

With dismal bank and lender earnings expected in the coming weeks, investors were unable to keep buying a day after stocks, including financials, had logged sharp gains. Investors are bracing

for financial companies to take another series of major credit-related write-downs, but the uncertainty about how large they'll be is weighing on the market, said Scott Wren, senior equity strategist at Wachovia Securities.

"As we go into earnings season, it's going to be much of the same as the first quarter," Wren said. "Financials are going to suffer the worst comparisons again; consumer discretionary earnings are going to be down, too."

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 5,020.500 Down 68.900 (-1.15%)	HONG KONG 21,821.78 Up 15.97 (+0.07%)	JAKARTA 2,266.709 Down 19.317 (-0.85%)
TOKYO 13,067.21 Up 15.08 (+0.12%)	K. LUMPUR 1,139.81 Up 18.56 (+1.66%)	MANILA 2,450.62 Down 30.91 (-1.25%)
SINGAPORE 2,897.35 Down 20.27 (-0.69%)	SEOUL 1,537.43 Up 18.05 (+1.19%)	BANGKOK 713.19 Down 7.94 (-1.10%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 11,147.44 -236.77
NASDAQ 2,234.89 0.00
S&P 1,244.68 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0428
British Pound	0.506
Canadian Dollar	1.0126
Chinese Renmbi	6.8435
Euro	0.6361
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8018
Indian Rupee	43.107
Indonesian Rupiah	9165
Japanese Yen	107.115
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2478
New Zealand Dollar	1.3238
Philippine Peso	45.615
Singapore Dollar	1.3604
South Korean Won	1002.15
Swiss Franc	1.0308
Taiwan Dollar	30.417
Thailand Baht	33.675

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Accounting for family time in your professional timeline

By MARY ELLEN SLAYTER
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Q: How do you explain a gap in your career on a resume? As a young professor, I sidelined my career for a few years to have a family. I gave up a tenure-track position at which I was very successful. After seven years, I took an adjunct professor position, and after two more years, I applied for another tenure-track position at the same university and was hired. I have had a successful career, and it is years later, but the gap in my career still haunts me and potentially impedes my advancement to full professor. In academia, reviewers of your resume take into account when you received your degree and how much you have published since then. I need a professional and succinct way to explain the gap on my resume so it will not be held against me.

A: It seems the hardest part is already behind you. Generally, that first job after you have

been out of the work force for a while is the most difficult to get. Employers—even in academia—are most concerned about your recent performance, not what you did (or didn't do) a decade ago.

You do need to address the gap on your resume to explain why you may have fewer publications than someone else your age. But don't dwell on it, or try to get cutesy about it by dubbing yourself a "domestic engineer" or "family CEO" during that time. (Not that I actually think you would do that—you strike me as professional almost to a fault—but those goofy titles are a pet peeve of mine.) Simply insert a line at the appropriate point in the timeline that says "Family Caregiver" and give the dates. That makes your point without belaboring it. If necessary, you can explain further in an interview.

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Q: I manage two women who are mothers of similarly aged babies. I am a mother myself and work full time, so I get the juggle.

One of the women has in-

consistent day care. She is trying to get another day-care situation, but there is a waiting list at the center her older child attends. Also, she does not call to give me a heads-up when her daughter is coming in—I hear the baby cooing and realize she is here. This is starting to affect her job, as she is on the phone a lot. If the baby is crying, the other worker has to handle her duties.

I think I need to say something, even though she knows this is not a sustainable situation. It is not fair to the other worker, who I am sure would love to have her baby here, too. I value her as an employee, and I don't want to lose her, but I also want her to know that it cannot continue.

A: It's a shame your employee doesn't realize how good she has it. I'm sure this day-care situation has her stressed, but many employers would have sent her home the first time she showed up with her baby without asking whether it was OK. She is taking advantage of your understanding nature, and the resentment her be-

havior is causing is undermining productivity in your office.

You need to handle this quickly, before you lose your temper or get in trouble with your supervisor.

Sit down with your worker and calmly explain your concerns. Emphasize how much you value her as an employee—and even empathize with her situation—but make it absolutely clear that this can't continue. Because you haven't said anything, she's assuming it's fine with you if she brings the baby

in when her day care is closed. Next, give her a deadline to arrange for more reliable care. At the very least, she should have a regular backup sitter. It's unfortunate that she hasn't gotten into her preferred center, but we can't always get what we want. You need to make it particularly clear that she has to get your permission before bringing the baby into the office. Asking her to do this doesn't make you mean; it makes you the boss.

Next, approach your supervisors about looking into ways to

help parents with the juggling act. Subsidized, on-site day care may be the holy grail for working parents, but it's not the only option. Perhaps your organization could arrange for backup care at a nearby center. Even a handout compiling local referral services for licensed child care could help. Finally, consider an official policy that encourages flexible scheduling or teleworking. This could help many workers better balance work with their personal lives, not just the new parents.



Explaining a gap in your professional timeline when you had to take time off to take care of your family should not be a hassle.

How to approach contract work

Q: Should I take a contract job that lasts for four years and then they renew the bid?

A: Considering that most jobs have even less security than that, why not? It really depends on the job and whether it's the right fit for you. Focus on that, not how long the job is "guaranteed" to last.

■ ■ ■

Q: I have had several jobs on a contractual basis in the past six months to a year. How can I show potential employers that I am not "jumping around"?

A: First, make peace with the fact that you are indeed "jumping around." Show them that it's not necessarily a bad thing. It shows you're flexible, for one thing. If they hire you, they can be confident that you will hit the ground running. That's no small thing these days, as many employers are working to keep their staffs as lean as possible.

You should make it clear on your resume that these were contract gigs. Perhaps in the bullets under the individual jobs? For example, say that you worked on a \$4.5 million contract for the

Defense Department, or whatever metric is appropriate.

If they were all in succession — and similar work — you could put them under one heading, perhaps describing yourself as a "defense consultant" (or whatever title is appropriate for the work you have been doing).

Adapted from Career Tracks Live, Washington Post reporter Mary Ellen Slayter's online discussion.

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DOLLARS AND SENSE

Don't nix that summer vacation

By David Uffington

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Gas prices are keeping many families home this summer. But there are ways to reduce costs and still go on vacation. Here are some ideas:

■ Pick a vacation spot that doesn't require any extra driving once you get there. All-in-one inclusive packages are great for this. If you want to see the local sights, the hotel might offer bicycles or mopeds for your use.

■ Check the price of renting an RV for one week, and ask about mileage: How far will you be able to travel on one tank of gas? Mark a circle on a map and see if there is a potential vacation spot within that area. With the RV you'll save on motels and food as well.

■ If you drive your own car, you don't have to travel far to get a real vacation feel. A rental

cabin in the woods by a lake or at the shore could be affordable if you're not spending hundreds of dollars for gas. If the lodging has a refrigerator and stove, your food costs will be dramatically reduced.

■ If your time is flexible, check LastMinuteTravel.com for low-cost travel. You won't have much notice in many cases, and little choice about when to go, but if you're adventurous and want to spend a few days in a new place, this is an excellent way to sample travel destinations. An extra feature on the site is the maps showing motel locations.

■ Airfare Watchdog (www.airfarewatchdog.com) is another good site for low fares. It tracks airlines, and if you sign up for alerts, you'll get fast e-mail notification of fares from your departure city.

■ Bed and Breakfast (bedandbreakfast.com) is another

site that will send alerts if you sign up. It's not limited to bed and breakfast places either—search the site for listings covering resorts, working ranches and farms, country inns and more.

■ Priceline.com is a good source for reduced-cost travel. You can choose your departure and destination cities, the dates you want to leave and return, and whether you want a car waiting at the other end. While the prices are likely to be the lowest available, it doesn't hurt to directly call the individual motel, airline and car rental companies to see if you can get a better deal.

David Uffington regrets that he cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into his column whenever possible. Write to him in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

Lobbyists' cash haul appears to slow

WASHINGTON (AP)—A decade-long boom for corporate lobbyists in Washington is showing signs of quieting down, just as tougher congressional rules threaten to muffle the multibillion-dollar industry even more next year.

The new rules mandate more detailed disclosure of lobbying activities, industry oversight by the Justice Department and penalties of up to \$200,000 for violations. They will force corporations and trade groups to provide more precise spending records and to take a harder look at who's lobbying for them.

Reports for spending in the second half of 2007 are due by Feb. 15. But under the new rules, which take effect Jan. 1, lobbyists and companies must now file quarterly reports.

The lobbying reforms come as corporate spending habits appear to be shifting. Since the late 1990s, total expenditures grew by about 80 percent and, in some years, at an annual clip of 12 percent, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, a watchdog group that tracks such expenses.

K Street's river of cash hit record levels in 2006, as its two main tributaries, corporations and trade associations, helped bring the high-water mark to a record \$2.63 billion in reported spending. Corporations and trade groups accounted for roughly 70 percent of that. Unions, professional associations and other

organizations comprised the remaining 30 percent.

But in the first six months of 2007, spending—based on disclosure reports filed with Congress—reached \$1.34 billion, only 2.3 percent higher than the same period last year.

A slower pace, to be sure, but still an impressive amount of influence, coming in from myriad sources, to monitor. The new rules are meant to do just that.

"The increased precision in the reporting requirements may reduce the overall amount that is reported because currently people are over-reporting lobbying income and expenses," said attorney Craig Engle, a registered lobbyist with Arent Fox LLP.

He expects a smaller community of lobbyists with a slightly slower spending rate.

That prediction isn't shared across the industry. Several experts and lobbyists said that no one really knows what impact, if any, the rules will have on spending. Some experts said lobbyists might expand their repertoire to activities they aren't required to disclose, such as "grassroots" campaigns and advertising.

As lobbyist activity largely follows congressional priorities, annual spending predictions can be difficult. But experts say several factors, such as market saturation, can't be ignored as potential sands in the wheel.

Much of the past decade's explosion can be traced to a need

for better representation, said Jeffrey M. Berry, a Tufts University political science professor and expert on interest groups. Now that most trade groups and corporations are well represented, he said, Washington may just be in glut territory.

Former Clinton administration official Jack Quinn, who co-founded one of Washington's most influential lobbying outfits Quinn Gillespie & Associates LLC, said it stands to reason "almost arithmetically" the industry is reaching a limit.

"But, look, there's a lot of business in the field," he said. "There's a lot to be done."

There are nearly 36,000 registered lobbyists, more than double the number in 2000, according to the Senate public records office's most recent estimate. Some experts say that number is inflated by duplications and outdated registrations.

The new lobbying rules—an outgrowth of corruption scandals involving lobbyist Jack Abramoff and several U.S. lawmakers—are designed to enhance transparency, not curb lobbying. They take effect Jan. 1.

James Thurber, an American University professor who teaches government, calculated that about 84,000 people work in the business—including lobbyists, their staff, pollsters and others—which, he contends, is the third-largest Washington industry behind government and tourism.

Nation

Senate bows to Bush, approves surveillance bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bowling to President Bush's demands, the Senate approved and sent the White House a bill Wednesday to overhaul bitterly disputed rules on secret government eavesdropping and shield telecommunications companies from lawsuits complaining they helped the U.S. spy on Americans.

The relatively one-sided vote, 69-28, came only after a lengthy and heated debate that pitted privacy and civil liberties concerns against the desire to prevent terrorist attacks. It ended almost a year of wrangling in the Democratic-led Congress over surveillance rules and the president's warrantless wiretapping program that was initiated after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The House passed the same

bill last month, and Bush said he would sign it soon.

Opponents assailed the eavesdropping program, asserting that it imperiled citizens' rights of privacy from government intrusion. But Bush said the legislation protects those rights as well as Americans' security.

"This bill will help our intelligence professionals learn who the terrorists are talking to, what they're saying and what they're planning," he said in a brief White House appearance after the Senate vote.

The bill is very much a political compromise, brought about by a deadline: Wiretapping orders authorized last year will begin to expire in August. Without a new bill, the government would go back to



President Bush delivers a statement on FISA reform legislation, Wednesday, July 9, 2008, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

old FISA rules, requiring multiple new orders and potential delays to continue those intercepts. That is something most of Congress did not want to see happen, particularly in an election year.

The long fight on Capitol Hill centered on one main question: whether to protect from civil lawsuits any telecommunications companies that helped the government eavesdrop on American phone and computer lines without the permission or knowledge of a secret court created by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

The White House had threatened to veto the bill unless it immunized companies such as AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. against wiretapping lawsuits.

Obama stokes VP speculation with Hillary 2 Wis. men chained, sexually assaulted

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama stoked vice presidential speculation Wednesday with an unannounced stop at the Washington law firm of a search team member and then a flight to New York fundraisers with potential pick Hillary Rodham Clinton and a second vetter.

"I'm not going to tell you" any details, the smiling likely Democratic nominee told reporters after spending more than two hours inside a downtown Washington office building where attorney Eric Holder, a member of his vice presidential search committee, has offices.

Obama wouldn't say why he visited the building or whom he saw there, and the two top aides at his side - campaign manager David Plouffe and chief strategist David Axelrod - also stayed mum.

The midmorning stop was one of at least two that weren't on his public schedule, and aides would say only that Obama had private meetings planned while in Washington. They wouldn't provide additional details, in-



Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., left, talks with Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., on Obama's campaign charter jet in Washington, Wednesday, July 9, 2008, prior to departure for New York for a fundraising event.

cluding whether Obama had met with Holder, a partner at Covington and Burling. The firm is located just blocks from the White House that Obama hopes to occupy come January.

Later, Obama was appearing with Clinton, his rival-turned ally who is mentioned as a possible running mate, at two fundraisers spanning two days. Vice presidential searcher Caroline Kennedy accompanied the two on the flight from Washington.

Aides were tightlipped about why the trio traveled together other than to cite the fundraisers.

Kennedy introduced Obama at one fundraiser Wednesday evening, asking donors to "pledge to do all we can to elect Barack Obama." She did not mention the running mate search. Obama, for his part, praised Clinton, who was not present. He had finished speaking but returned to the microphone to ask his donors to help Clinton retire her debt by filling out fundraising forms left on every chair.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis.

(AP)—A 46-year-old man abducted two men in their 20s, chained them up at his rural house and sexually assaulted them before one managed to escape and get help, according to court documents filed Wednesday.

Edward Lanphear, 46, of Saratoga was ordered held on \$1 million bond. No formal charges were filed.

"These are nothing more than allegations that we dispute formally," said his attorney, Gary Kryshak. "They better have more than a couple of statements that they can't prove."

A 23-year-old man was held in Lanphear's home from Saturday until Tuesday, according to an affidavit filed by sheriff's investigators seeking support for Lanphear's arrest. The young man had told friends Friday that he was going to walk home after

a fireworks show, the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune reported.

Lanphear was driving the man home when he pulled over, told him he was a police officer and handcuffed him, the affidavit said.

When one of the handcuffs became loose, Lanphear hit the man in the head and knocked him out, the document said. When the man revived, he was chained up in Lanphear's basement.

The affidavit said Lanphear used a knife to cut off the man's clothing and sexually assaulted him at least three times while he was restrained.

The document says Lanphear attached a string to a shotgun and connected the string to the man's chains, warning him that if he moved the gun would shoot him, the affidavit says.

Warren Jeffs released from hospital

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs was released from a Nevada hospital Wednesday, a day after he was found "convulsive," weak and feverish in an Arizona jail cell, a sheriff's spokeswoman said.

The 52-year-old leader of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was released around 5 p.m., police Officer Jose Montoya said. He said he did not know where Jeffs was transported to.

Calls to the Mohave County Sheriff's Department, which had custody of Jeffs, were not immediately returned.

Earlier Wednesday, a sheriff's spokeswoman said Jeffs was conscious but in a "weakened state of health, acting in a convulsive manner, shaking, and running a fever" when he was found Tuesday his solo jail cell in Kingman, Ariz.

That prompted jailers to move Jeffs from the Mohave County

Jail to Kingman Regional Medical Center. He was then flown about 100 miles to Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center in Las Vegas.

"We're not told what his diagnosis is," spokeswoman Trish Carter said of Jeffs. "But based on our observations from jail staff, it does not appear to be life-threatening."

During his hospitalization, Jeffs was under heavy guard while being treated in Las Vegas for an unknown medical condition, the Police Department said in a statement.

Jeffs' Arizona lawyer, Mike Piccarreta of Tucson, acknowledged that Jeffs was hospitalized but refused to say why.

"I really don't want to comment on his personal medical condition," Piccarreta said. "I think anyone that was being incarcerated as a result of persecution for his religious beliefs would not be in good health."

Ailing Kennedy returns to Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, battling a brain tumor, walked through a wall of applause and into the Senate on Wednesday and cast a dramatic, decisive vote on long-stalled Medicare legislation.

"Aye," the 76-year-old Kennedy said in a loud voice, smiling broadly and making a thumbs-up gesture as he registered his vote.

Spectators in the galleries that overhang the chamber burst into cheers—a violation of decorum that drew no complaints.

"It's great to be back. I love this place," he said after his brief visit.

Kennedy made his way into the Senate on his own power, appearing little the worse for his illness. A patch of scalp was clearly

visible through his familiar white hair, although it was not clear whether that was a result of surgery he underwent or the effects of chemotherapy or radiation that are part of his treatment.

He walked into chamber accompanied by Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, his party's presidential nominee-in-waiting, as well as fellow Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut and Kennedy's son, Rep. Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island.

Democratic senators, who had been tipped to his presence, burst into applause when he entered. Some Republicans looked around quizzically, then quickly joined in the applause when they saw Kennedy.



Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., enters the Capitol for the first time after brain surgery Wednesday, July 9, 2008 on Capitol Hill in Washington. Walking in front of him is Senate Sergeant at Arms Terrance Gainer.

DNA clears JonBenet Ramsey's family

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Prosecutors cleared JonBenet Ramsey's parents and brother Wednesday in the 1996 killing of the 6-year-old beauty queen, saying they were "deeply sorry" for putting the family under a cloud of suspicion that hung heavy for more than a decade.

New DNA tests, which focus on skin cells left behind from a mere touch, point to a mysterious outsider. They came too late to clear the name of JonBenet's mother, Patsy, who died of cancer in 2006.

"To the extent that we may have contributed in any way to the public perception that you might have been involved in this crime, I am deeply sorry," Boulder County District Attorney Mary Lacy wrote in a letter to



This file image made from an undated family video shows JonBenet Ramsey performing during a beauty pageant. AP

the little girl's father, John Ramsey. "No innocent person should have to endure such an extensive trial in the court of public opinion."

Lacy said new "touch DNA" tests on skin cells that were left behind on JonBenet's long underwear point to an "unexplained third party" and not a member of the family.

John Ramsey, a software entrepreneur who now lives in Michigan, said Wednesday he is hopeful the killer will be found based on the DNA evidence.

"I think the people that are in charge of the investigation are focused on that, and that gives me a lot of comfort," he told KUSA-TV in Denver. He added: "Certainly we are grateful that they acknowledged that we, based on that, certainly could not have been involved."

For years after the slaying, tabloids and crime shows went after the couple, and Lacy's predecessor as district attorney, Alex Hunter, said in 1997 that the parents were under an "umbrella of suspicion." News reports also cast suspicion on JonBenet's older brother, Burke, who was 9 when his sister was killed.

The suspicions outlived Patsy, who died at age 49 in Atlanta, where the family moved after JonBenet's death.

"My first thought was obviously I wish Patsy Ramsey was here with us to be able to at least share vindication of her family," said L. Lin Wood, an attorney for the Ramsey family. "There are many people in this country, if not around the world, that also owe John and Patsy Ramsey and Burke Ramsey an apology."

DNA in JonBenet case left behind in skin cells

NEW YORK (AP)—Crime scene DNA is typically recovered from blood or semen stains, but the DNA that exonerated members of JonBenet Ramsey's family came from invisible skin cells.

This so-called "touch DNA" is left behind when people touch things, because they naturally shed skin cells that contain the genetic material. In this case, the new DNA was recovered by guessing where JonBenet's killer might have handled the long johns she was wearing.

"It's not a stain, you can't see it," said Angela Williamson, director of forensic casework at Bode Technology Group in Lorton, Va.,

in suburban Washington. That's the company that recovered the new DNA material.

To find such DNA, "you have to have a good idea of where someone has been touched, or in this case, where you think the suspect would have touched" JonBenet's clothing, she said.

Investigators suggested that somebody pulling down her pants would have touched the waistband and the sides of the long johns, Williamson said. So Bode scientists scraped those areas with a sharp blade to see if they could find DNA.

While the amount of DNA they found was much less than would appear in a stain, there was enough

that it was processed in the routine way for analysis, Williamson said. (In other cases, so-called "low copy number DNA" has to be processed in a different way).

DNA from two sites on the long johns matched genetic material from an unknown male that had previously been recovered from blood in JonBenet's underpants. The matching DNA from three places on two articles of JonBenet's clothing convinced the district attorney that it belonged to the killer, and hadn't been left accidentally by a third party.

Williamson said Bode has done thousands of touch DNA recoveries over at least three years.

Flames force California residents to flee—again

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP)—For Clay and Nancy Henphill, running from raging wildfires has become nearly routine. For the second time in just over two weeks, they were forced to evacuate their home after fire officials ordered 10,000 people in the Sierra Nevada foothills to flee ahead of a wind-whipped blaze, one of about 40 lightning-sparked wildfires that have charred more than 76 square miles in Butte County.

The Henphills awoke to blaring sirens around 1 a.m. Tuesday and were told to leave immediately. Only a week earlier, they had returned to their home in Concow, a rural community about 90 miles north of Sacramento, after spending a week at a shelter.

"They were running sirens all down through there. We started tossing a few things in the car. A fireman said, 'Get out of here quick,'" Clay Henphill, 59, said Wednesday. "We all came out in a long line of cars, with fire trucks going in as we were going out."

The couple grabbed clothes, medicine, camping gear and the family dog and jumped in their car. They spent Tuesday night in a tent outside an emergency shelter in Oroville.

"You almost feel like somebody is out to get you," said Nancy Henphill, 61.

By Wednesday, the lightning-sparked wildfire had destroyed at least 40 homes, mostly in Concow, and threatened nearly 4,000 others in the nearby city of Paradise and other neighboring communities. A separate wildfire destroyed 74 homes in Paradise last month.



Firefighters from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection watch flames from the Butte Lightning Complex fire approach a fire break near Concow, Calif., Wednesday, July 9, 2008. AP

3rd climber attempts to scale NY Times skyscraper

NEW YORK (AP)—A self-proclaimed expert on al-Qaida climbed part-way up the New York Times' 52-story building early Wednesday to publicize his activism against the terrorist organization, citing two previous climbers as inspiration.

David Malone, 29, reached the 11th floor of the Manhattan building before descending to a ledge, where he spent hours making cell phone calls and talking to police. He was arrested about 5:20 a.m.

At one point, Malone hung a small white and red banner, which covered part of the letter "T" in "The" on the Times' sign. His banner referenced al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, police said.

Malone said news reports of two other climbers on the building in the past five weeks inspired him to seek publicity for his own activism, and those stories helped him figure out how to do it, according to police.

On June 5, Alain Robert climbed

the skyscraper and unfurled a banner about global warming, followed hours later by Renaldo Clarke, proclaiming the dangers of malaria. The building, which the newspaper company moved into last year, is designed with slats that the men climbed like a ladder.

Malone called a night editor at the New York Daily News - housed in another Manhattan building - during his climb, saying Americans underestimate al-Qaida's threat to national security.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gates says Pentagon will reopen \$35B tanker bid

WASHINGTON (AP)—Boeing Co. and Northrop Grumman Corp. will submit new offers for a disputed \$35 billion Air Force tanker contract, and the Pentagon will pick a winner by the end of the year. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Wednesday that his office - not the Air Force - will oversee the competition between Boeing and the team of Northrop and Airbus parent European Aeronautic Defence and Space Co. Many lawmakers embraced the action, but analysts questioned the Pentagon's aggressive timetable.

Atlanta courthouse shooting trial set to open

ATLANTA (AP)—The courthouse killings case against Brian Nichols was supposed to be as open-and-shut as they come. There were hordes of witnesses, hours of surveillance video and his lengthy statement to investigators after his arrest, when police say he confessed to a rampage that left four people dead. Even Nichols' defense team has conceded Nichols killed a judge, court reporter, sheriff's deputy and federal agent on March 11, 2005, in a spree that began at the county courthouse in downtown Atlanta. He has pleaded not guilty, and his attorneys said Wednesday they plan to argue Nichols was insane and couldn't tell "right from wrong" during the killings.

MADD: Tainted-cookie suspect was doing service

LAKE WORTH, Texas (AP)—A teenager suspected of delivering drug-laced cookies to a dozen police stations in north Texas was fulfilling court-ordered community service work for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the organization said Wednesday. Christian V. Phillips told the police stations he was representing MADD when he dropped off baskets of homemade treats over the past few weeks, officials said. A few officers ate the cookies, but no illnesses have been reported. MADD's North Texas chapter said in a statement Wednesday that it was "profoundly disturbed" and was investigating.

Mich. convict leads cops to girl he killed in '86

MACOMB TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Police in Michigan say they have unearthed the body of a 13-year-old girl after being led to the body by the man convicted of killing her in 1986. Eastpointe police Cpl. Martin Genter Sr. says authorities confirmed that searchers found the remains of Cindy Zarzycki on Wednesday evening. Genter says the body was found where Arthur Nelson Ream led police after being temporarily released from prison earlier in the day. The body was found north of Detroit in Macomb Township. That's where Cindy was last seen alive on April 20, 1986. Ream was convicted of first-degree murder June 18 and is to be sentenced this month to life in prison. He is already serving 15 years on an unrelated sex charge.

Hurricane Bertha strengthens to Cat. 2

MIAMI (AP)—Forecasters say Hurricane Bertha is moving slowly, but could regain major hurricane status as it heads toward Bermuda. The storm is currently a Category 2. As of about 11 p.m. EDT Wednesday, the center of the storm was about 590 miles southeast of Bermuda. Maximum sustained winds are about 105 mph with some higher gusting. The Atlantic season's first hurricane is traveling west-northwest at about 12 mph.

9/11 suspect to defend self at trial

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—A Guantanamo prisoner accused in the Sept. 11 attacks complained Wednesday that his confinement and obstructions by the U.S. military are complicating his court-approved effort to serve as his own lawyer. Ali Abd al-Aziz Ali, one of five men charged in the attacks, said the military did not deliver two letters and a motion that he wrote to the judge ahead of the pretrial hearing. The judge, Marine Col. Ralph Kohlmann, said Ali's situation will only become more difficult and tried to persuade him to accept his lawyers. Without a security clearance, he said Ali will not have access to certain classified material during the death penalty trial.

Asia

Developing nations reject G-8 climate plan

TOYAKO, Japan (AP)—China, India and other energy-guzzling developing nations on Wednesday rejected key elements of a global warming strategy embraced by President Bush and leaders of wealthy nations. And the U.N.'s top climate official dismissed the G-8 goals as insignificant.

The sharp criticism emerged at the close of a summit here of the Group of Eight industrial powers that was dominated by the issue of how to address the warming Earth. The G-8 leaders invited their counterparts from fast-growing, pollution-emitting nations to sideline talks on the topic, but the session merely

showcased a widening rift over the best approach.

It was the final G-8 summit of Bush's presidency and he said "significant progress" had been made on fighting global warming when the leaders agreed to slash greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2050 and to insist that developing na-

tions be part of any new international agreement.

"In order to address climate change, all major economies must be at the table, and that's what took place," Bush said before boarding Air Force One to return to Washington.

The "major economies" are the

world's 16 largest-emitting nations, accounting for 80 percent of the world's air pollution. The expanded meeting that included all of them was the first time their leaders had sat down together for climate discussions.

But it ended with only a vague reference in their final

declaration to a long-term goal for reducing global emissions and a pledge for rich and poor countries to work together. Only a few of the emerging powers - Indonesia, Australia and South Korea - agreed to back the 50 percent by 2050 reduction target.

RP rebels kill cop, raid mining firm

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected communist rebels stormed a mining company office and burned equipment, and fatally shot a policeman and wounded three soldiers in stepped-up attacks, police said Wednesday.

New People's Army rebels, who quit peace talks four years ago to end their decades-long insurgency, locked up employees of PHILCO Mining Corp.

in southern Compostela Valley on Tuesday and set fire to a generator and other equipment, said police Chief Superintendent Andres Caro.

He said the attack was triggered by the company's refusal to pay extortion demands to the rebels, who are considered terrorists by the U.S. and European countries because they target civilians and commercial establishments.

There were no casualties, but on Monday, police blamed the rebels for wounding three soldiers in Northern Samar province in the eastern Philippines during a two-hour gunfight.

Four suspected rebels shot dead a police sergeant who was securing a public market in the southern township of Cateel in Davao Oriental province Sunday, said Senior Police Officer Ireneo Poblete.

Envoy: Bomber aimed to destroy embassy in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The suicide bomber who detonated his vehicle at the gates of the Indian Embassy in Kabul intended to destroy the embassy itself, the Indian ambassador to Afghanistan said Wednesday.

Ambassador Jayant Prasad also said the death toll from Monday's bombing had risen to 58, up from 41, after several people died of their wounds. Prasad said several school-age

children who attend classes near the embassy were among the dead. The Education Ministry confirmed that eight school children died.

"It is our reconstruction of events that the intention of the attacker was to detonate the device within the premises of the embassy and destroy the embassy," Prasad told The Associated Press.

A review of the bomb scene showed that one of the embassy

guards killed in the blast still had his hand on the closed gate. The guard likely hadn't opened it because he saw a suspicious car driving close behind an embassy vehicle, Prasad said.

"The suicide attacker then decided to explode his device outside rather than inside, so the maximum impact was taken by the (sand-filled blast) barriers," he said. "So the damage to the embassy wasn't structural."



GOODWILL VISIT

A Filipino security guard watches as Argentine frigate A.R.A. Libertad approaches Manila's south pier on Tuesday July 8, 2008. The Argentine Sail Training Ship is in the country for a five-day goodwill visit as part of her eight month trip around the world.

SKorean parliament to probe beef deal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's parliament agreed Thursday to launch a probe into government negotiations with Washington on resumed American beef imports that sparked public outrage over fears of mad cow disease.

The planned probe is a blow to President Lee Myung-bak, whose leadership has been significantly undermined by a wave of protests against the beef deal for the past two months. The investigation comes as protests show signs of subsiding, and could rekindle heated public debate.

The probe was a key demand from the main opposition Dem-

ocratic Party to end its boycott of the National Assembly, which has been suspended since lawmakers started a four-year term on May 30.

But the ruling Grand National Party agreed earlier this week to accept a probe and parliament is to be formally opened Friday, when President Lee will address lawmakers.

The opposition has claimed that the beef deal, struck in April and amended last month, is flawed because it could expose the country to mad cow disease. The liberal party also has accused the government of pro-U.S. President Lee of reaching

the deal just hours before Lee's first summit with U.S. President George W. Bush in an effort to kowtow to Washington.

The presidential office is subject to the investigation, along with the Agriculture Ministry and Foreign Ministry. A special committee will lead the probe until Aug. 20, but it can be extended.

The new parliament also agreed to form five other special committees, including one that will deal with an opposition demand that the country's livestock epidemic prevention law be revised to strengthen precautions against mad cow disease.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suspected Maoist rebels kill 4 in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Suspected Maoist rebels shot and killed an opposition state lawmaker and three others while they were attending a school function in eastern India on Wednesday, police said. Nearly a dozen suspected rebels arrived at the school and fired at the four from close range in Barihatu, a village 20 miles south of Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand state, said R. K. Malik, a police spokesman. Those killed included 53-year-old Ramesh Singh Munda, a former state minister belonging to Janata Dal (United), or People's Party, and his two guards, Malik told The Associated Press. Munda represented the area in the state assembly. The identity of the fourth victim is not yet known. The assailants escaped after the attack and police are searching for them, Malik said.

India's nuclear agreement with IAEA has loopholes

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—India's agreement with the U.N. atomic watchdog agency contains restrictions that could limit international oversight of its civilian nuclear program, according to a confidential document obtained Thursday by The Associated Press. The accord is meant to open the way for India to do business with a group of 45 states that export nuclear fuel and technology, but the deal first has to be approved by the 35-nation board of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Much of the 23-page document is in line with similar agreements the IAEA has with other countries. But a key clause appears to call into question the effectiveness of any IAEA effort to ensure India's civilian nuclear activities do not aid its

military's atomic weapons program.

US: Could take months to check NKorea nuclear list

BEIJING (AP)—Negotiators at six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament on Thursday will lay out a program for what could be a months-long effort to verify the communist state's declaration of its atomic materials, the top U.S. nuclear envoy said. The latest round of talks were agreed to after North Korea handed over the much-delayed list late last month and then blew up a cooling tower for its main nuclear reactor to demonstrate its commitment. "Verification itself ... will take several weeks or even months, actually, but we need to agree on how verification will work," Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told reporters Wednesday. Some basic agreements on the process include interviews with North Korean officials and site visits, Hill said.

Pakistan rejects foreign troops

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Pakistan's top diplomat Wednesday rejected the idea of any foreign troops operating inside Pakistan, reinforcing its refusal to accept U.S. military aid in battling insurgents near the Afghan border. Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi's comments during a U.N. Security Council session on Afghanistan's future could deal a blow to the United States' efforts to kill or capture al-Qaida leaders. "Pakistan will not allow its territory to be used against other countries. However, no foreign troops will be allowed to operate inside Pakistan," Qureshi told the 15-nation council. "The new democratic government in Pakistan cannot but be sensitive to the sentiments of our people."

World

6 dead in attack on US consulate in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) -- Gunmen believed inspired by al-Qaida stormed a guard post at the U.S. consulate Wednesday, touching off a firefight that killed three police and three assailants in the latest sign of Turkey's difficulty in clamping down on homegrown militants.

The bearded gunmen emerged from a car and shot a traffic officer dead, then swarmed the guard quarters at the entrance to the consulate, where two policemen were killed, according to security video. Officers fired back, killing three of the assailants - all Turks - as bystanders fled for cover. At least one attacker escaped in the car.

An officer told The Associated Press that police suspected the armed men were linked to al-Qaida even though the assault did not match the terror group's usual hallmarks, such as coordinated attacks by suicide bomb-



A Turkish policeman stands guard in a guardpost in front of the U.S. Consulate hours after an attack in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday, July 9, 2008. AP

ers that cause mass casualties.

The suspects may have been inspired by al-Qaida ideology without the capability to carry out more sophisticated attack, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

No staff at the consulate, a relatively new building perched on a hill and surrounded by high walls, were hurt, U.S. Ambassador Ross Wilson said.

The attack sent people who had been waiting for visas running into shops and cafes across from the consulate, an eyewitness said. After the attack, bullet holes dotted three sides of the concrete-brick guard post.

Wilson and Istanbul's governor branded the assault a terrorist attack. Security around all U.S. diplomatic missions in Turkey was immediately increased, and the consulate canceled visa

interviews for Thursday.

Turkish authorities have been increasingly targeting suspected Islamic militants since al-Qaida-linked suicide bombers killed 58 people in 2003 by targeting two synagogues, the British consulate and a British bank in Istanbul.

Turkey has also been cracking down on both ultranationalists who have attacked Christians and on Kurdish rebels, two groups it deems a threat to the country's security.

"Turkey is a fertile ground which is nourishing militants from almost every ideology - from radical Islamic ones to leftist and ultranationalist ones," said Nihat Ali Ozcan of the Economic Policy Research Institute in Ankara.

"It is difficult to contain them, and it is even more difficult to prevent terrorist attacks," he added.

Seven UN peacekeepers killed in ambush in Darfur

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) -- In a brazen attack on horseback and from SUVs mounted with anti-aircraft weapons, some 200 gunmen ambushed peacekeepers from a joint U.N.-African Union force in Sudan's Darfur region, killing seven in fierce battles that lasted more than two hours, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

Twenty-two members of the U.N.-African Union force were wounded in the fighting Tuesday. Attackers outnumbered the

peacekeepers by nearly three-to-one.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon's office said the joint military and police patrol was investigating the killing of civilians in North Darfur state when it was ambushed by militants driving vehicles armed with anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons.

Five Rwandan soldiers and two police officers, one from Ghana and the other from Ugan-

da, were killed.

"We are outraged by the attack," Shereen Zorba, deputy spokeswoman of the U.N.-AU mission known as UNAMID, told The Associated Press.

"We are not part of the conflict, but a tool to alleviate the suffering of civilians. We try to establish some level of peace and security in the ground. But to drag us in to be part of the conflict is unjustifiable."

Hindered by a lack of crucial

equipment, including attack helicopters, the joint U.N.-AU force has struggled to fulfill its mission since deploying Jan. 1 with about 9,000 soldiers and police officers.

The force is authorized to have 26,000 members, but it is faced with chronic shortages of staff and equipment and less-than-adequate cooperation from the Sudanese government.

The peacekeepers mostly patrol the wartorn Darfur region, helping protect unarmed civil-

ians in the many camps of the displaced and mediate between fighting factions. But they often have little access to wide swaths of the remote western Sudanese area, roughly the size of France.

The peacekeeping force has been unable to persuade the U.S. and other governments to supply attack and transport helicopters, surveillance aircraft, military engineers and logistical support it needs to safely navigate Darfur.

UK police charge man in killing of French students

LONDON (AP)—Police in London charged an unemployed 33-year-old man Wednesday in the stabbing murders of two French students - a frenzied killing that shocked people on both sides of the English Channel.

Two other people were also arrested Wednesday, police announced later.

Metropolitan police charged Nigel Edward Farmer with the murders of Gabriel Ferez and Laurent Bonomo on June 29. Farmer was scheduled to appear at Greenwich magistrate court Thursday.

Farmer was also charged with arson and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Police also said they arrested a 35-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman in connection with the killings. The two, whom police did not identify, were taken into custody in south London.

The burned bodies of the victims were discovered in an apartment by firefighters. Bonomo had been stabbed nearly 200 times and Ferez nearly 50 times. The attack was so ferocious the press dubbed the killings the "Tarantino murders" because its senseless brutality is reminiscent of movies by the American filmmaker Quentin Tarantino.

The French victims, both 23, were promising bioengineering students taking part in a three-month DNA research project at Imperial College in London, one of Britain's top universities. Ferez had visited Bonomo's apartment in the New Cross area of south London on June 29. That night, neighbors called police when they heard what sounded like an explosion and saw the ground-floor apartment ablaze.

Iran missile test sends message to US, Israel

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran test-fired nine missiles Wednesday, including ones capable of hitting Israel, making a dramatic show of its readiness to strike back if the United States or Israel attacks it over its nuclear program.

The launches sparked strong U.S. criticism and a jump in oil prices - underlining fears Iran might seal off the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf waterway through which 40 percent of the world's crude passes, if military conflict does break out.

The tests of the long- and medium-range missiles did not appear to mark a significant advance in Iran's missile capability - similar ones have been tested previously. But the timing and location were clearly aimed to send a message, coming as Iran has sharply stepped up the tone of its warnings of retaliation if attacked. This week, a top official of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Ali Shirazi, warned Tel Aviv would be "set on fire" in any Iranian retaliation.

The tests took place amid a military exercise that Iran has

been conducting in the Hormuz strait, where Tehran has threatened to block oil traffic in response to any U.S. or Israeli military action.

Iran has long warned it would strike back for any attack against it. But it has sharpened its rhetoric since Israel's military sent warplanes over the eastern Mediterranean in June for a large military exercise that U.S. officials described as a possible rehearsal for a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Gen. Hossein Salami, the Revolutionary Guards air force commander, said Iran's war games this week - code-named "Noble Prophet" - "demonstrate our resolve and might against enemies who in recent weeks have threatened Iran with harsh language," state TV reported.

"Hundreds and maybe thousands of missiles are ready to be fired at specified targets," he said. "A small part of our defense options was put on display for the world today. Our real reaction against enemy threats will be quicker and stronger."

US-funded effort to win over Sadr residents

BAGHDAD (AP)—Hundreds of women in black abayas crowd outdoor food markets, snapping up groceries and fresh vegetables. Stores are open again. Children play soccer on dirt fields until dusk—or later, when there's electricity.

This is Sadr City, where black-clad militiamen of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army once enforced discipline across the sprawling slum of 3 million people - half of Baghdad's population. The Iraqi army won control of the district in May after weeks of battles that damaged scores of houses and emptied the streets.

"Security is better without the Mahdi Army," said a 42-year-old resident who wanted to be identified only by his nickname, Abu Israa. "We don't want them back."

Most residents do not seem to miss the Mahdi Army, and the U.S. and Iraqi governments hope that sentiment sticks. So Sadr City is witnessing a flurry of public works projects - part of an effort to build confidence in the government and make it more difficult for the extrem-



People pass stands with fresh fruit at a marketplace in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Tuesday, July 1, 2008. AP

ists to return.

The U.S. military has tried the same strategy before in Sadr City after cease-fires but with limited results. This time U.S. officials are more confident that they can do a better job of managing the effort and maintaining the flow of money. They also believe that support for the militia has dropped sharply because residents are tired of bloodshed.

The Iraqis apparently hope to avoid the disappointment that's

growing in the southern city of Basra, where many residents blame the government for failing to deliver on its promises to improve basic services, provide jobs and distribute enough food after winning control from Shiite militias last spring.

Taking no chances in Sadr City, hundreds of city workers have spread out across the district to spruce it up. They are resurfacing roads and sidewalks, repairing the sewer system and collecting garbage.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Fashion bug: Teens turn dead cicadas into jewelry

SANDWICH, Mass. (AP)—Two 17-year-old jewelry makers from Cape Cod, Massachusetts are hoping swarms of customers will want their latest creations: earrings and necklaces made from dead bugs. Kathryn Maloney and Brady Cullinan are selling jewelry made out of the cicadas that swarmed their town of Sandwich this summer. The pair charges \$10 for earrings or necklaces made out of the bugs' lacquered carcasses. They tell the Cape Cod Times that some people find the jewelry gross, but others are impressed with its uniqueness. Maloney and Cullinan began making the bug jewelry in mid-June after Cullinan's mother suggested the idea.

Naked man arrested after hijacking Las Vegas bus

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Maybe he lost his shirt at a casino. Police in Las Vegas say they arrested a naked man who stole a beer and then hijacked a bus several miles northeast of the Strip. A police spokesman says the man fled from a convenience store when an officer arrived to investigate a report of a shoplifter Tuesday. The man allegedly punched in a back window of a Citizens Area Transit bus, climbed aboard, forced the driver off, drove the bus about 200 yards and then jumped off the moving vehicle. A police officer climbed aboard the bus and stopped the vehicle. Police say the man was arrested on felony charges and given clothes and a mental evaluation.

Man robbed buying crack calls cops who arrest him

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—An East Hartford man called police to report he had been robbed while trying to buy crack cocaine. Max Minnefield called police Monday to tell them he had paid a man and a woman \$8 for drugs he never received. Police charged him with criminal attempt to commit possession of narcotics. During his arraignment Tuesday, Judge Bradford Ward asked Minnefield, "Did you really think the police were going to go after the people?" He added that his question was rhetorical. Prosecutors later dropped the charges. Laura Weslund, Minnefield's public defender, said no drugs were ever found.

Ark. suspect leaves behind cell phone for police

FORREST CITY, Ark. (AP)—Forrest City police weren't able to catch their man after a high-speed chase through town, but the cell phone he left behind gave away his identity. The chase started just before 11 p.m. Monday after officers received a call about people "fighting in the street with guns," police said. When police arrived, they managed to block one car from getting away. The man in that car spoke briefly with officers before speeding away - and the chase was on. The man crashed his Toyota Camry into a house and ran away, police said. But as officers searched the car, the man's cell phone rang and the caller asked for the suspect by name. Officers said a search of the car uncovered a set of scales and two plastic bags, one containing marijuana and the other containing crack cocaine. Police declined to name the man Tuesday but said they were still searching for him.

Truck rams Concorde, knocks off its nose in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—An embarrassed museum official says a two-week nose job should reverse the damage a Concorde supersonic jet suffered when a truck rammed it. The retired Concorde is normally on display at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. It has been at a recreational facility in Brooklyn while the USS Intrepid and its home pier in Manhattan are repaired and renovated. Early July 1, a truck hauling equipment away from a Jamaican soccer-and-cricket festival bumped into the Concorde's distinctive nose and knocked it off. Museum President Bill White says the cone is salvageable and will be reattached and repaired to original standards. White is apologizing to British Airways, which owns the jet. He says the recreational facility should have provided better security for the plane.

Man out-spits father, claims pit-spitting title

EAU CLAIRE, Mich. (AP)—Brian "Young Gun" Krause has out-spit his father to claim his seventh championship at the International Cherry Pit Spitting Championship. Krause's winning spit on Saturday was 56 feet, 7 1/2 inches. That's 6 1/2 inches better than his father, the second-place finisher and defending champion, 54-year-old Rick "Pellet Gun" Krause of Tuba City, Ariz., who spit 56 feet, 1 inch. Thirty-year-old Brian Krause, of Dimondale, currently holds the Guinness World Record after spitting a pit 93 feet, 6 1/2 inches in 2003. Amanda Jennings of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, the first woman to place in the top three, did not qualify for championship competition but retained her title as women's champion with a spit of 43 feet, 11 inches.

Wis. stun gun thief who posted video gets prison

WAUKESHA, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin man who posted a video online showing him and his father shocking each other with a stolen stun gun has been sent to prison. Paul Crowell pleaded guilty to possession of an electric weapon and was sentenced June 20 to two years. Documents say he stole a Taser from an East Troy police officer. He got it while sitting in a patrol car after his vehicle was found in a ditch. The 22-year-old allegedly showed the online video to a girl, and she reported it to police. Crowell's father, Paul Dupey, also pleaded guilty to possession of an electric weapon. He is scheduled to be sentenced in August.

Arrest made after FedEx sends drug to wrong place

BALTIMORE (AP)—FedEx prides itself on reliability. But a mistaken delivery tipped off police to a 200-pound shipment of marijuana that someone tried to send from Pembroke Pines, Florida to Baltimore via the shipping company. Police tell The (Baltimore) Sun they learned about the shipment when it was delivered Tuesday to the wrong resident. Authorities posed as FedEx employees and arrested the shipment's intended recipient, 30-year-old Richard Gwatidzo. Officials say he was charged Thursday with possession of a large quantity of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute along with other drug related charges. Police say they also seized eight other FedEx boxes with nearly 400 pounds of the drug. Authorities are trying to determine the sender's identity.

Headless Hitler to get new wax head

In this July 3, 2008 file photo, a figure depicting former German dictator Adolf Hitler is displayed at the Madame Tussauds Berlin Wax Museum, in Berlin, on Thursday, July 3, 2008.



By **PATRICK McGROARTY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BERLIN (AP)—Madame Tussauds will repair the wax figure of Adolf Hitler that a visitor beheaded at its new Berlin branch and return it to the museum "as quickly as possible."

On Saturday, the first day the museum opened, a 41-year-old Berlin man pushed aside two employees to attack the wax Hitler figure, ripping off its head while shouting, "No more war!" He was only the second person to enter the museum.

The man, who has not been identified, was briefly detained by police, and is being investigated on suspicion of damaging property and bodily harm. One employee was slightly injured in the incident.

"The figure will be repaired, so that it can be reintegrated into the display as quickly as possible," the museum said in a statement Monday, adding that

it was still open despite the missing Hitler.

It is not clear how long it will take to repair the figure, Madame Tussauds spokesman Thomas Reinecke told

The Associated Press. He refused to give any details about security improvements at the museum but said the issue was being discussed.

The incident has triggered further debate over the figure's appropriateness. Last month, Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit urged the museum to consider carefully whether to include Hitler.

The museum near the German capital's Brandenburg Gate had pledged to portray Hitler without glorifying him. Its exhibit showed a downtrodden Hitler sitting in his bunker beneath a map of Europe, monitoring the advance of allied troops from the east and west.

Madame Tussauds reiterated Monday that Hitler "stands for a definitive part of Berlin's history that can not be denied."

Visitors were not supposed to be able to touch, photograph or pose with the wax Hitler - unlike the rest of the 75 figures in the new collection.



An installation depicting the creation of a wax head is displayed in the "Panoptikum" wax figures museum in Hamburg on Monday July 7, 2008.

Alleged police car joyride lands SC teen in jail

DILLON, S.C. (AP)—Call him the short arm of the law. Police in Dillon, a small town near the North Carolina border, say a 13-year-old with an interest in law enforcement twice stole a police cruiser and took it out to do some patrolling.

The boy's mother saw him bring the car home both times but didn't see anything wrong with the joyrides, Police Sgt. Jason Turner said.

The boy, who was charged with larceny and second-degree burglary, was not identified because of his age. He remained in Department of Juvenile Justice custody Wednesday.

His mother, Patricia Gillespie, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. She was released on \$5,000 bond. A phone listing for her could not be found.

Turner said residents called police

Sunday to say they'd seen the boy driving a police car. He said the boy also took the cruiser the previous Sunday and drove it around before returning it to the station. No one noticed it was missing.

The boy apparently watched someone enter a code to get into the department, then used it to get in and take the keys to the cruiser, Turner said.

Science & Technology

Wi-Fi radios bring the world home

By **PETER SVENSSON**
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—What are you going to listen to? Norway's 24-hour folk music channel Alltid Folkemusikk? The public hearings of the California Integrated Waste Management Board? Radio Banadir - the Most Trusted News in Somalia?

It's a big world out there, and radios that grab their sound from the Internet rather than the airwaves can bring it home.

Wi-Fi Internet radio sets have been

devices known as "media bridges" and Apple Inc.'s Airport Express, which can play music through a stereo or a set of powered speakers.

With the exception of the Aluratek model, all the radios in the test can be programmed through a PC, though you don't have to keep the computer on for the radios to play music. Register your unit at a Web site, and you can find your favorite stations (and, in a few cases, podcasts) and add them to your "Favorite Stations" list or assign them to the preset buttons on the unit.

ON THE NET

Com one Phoenix: <http://www.com-one.biz/store/index.php>

Roku SoundBridge Radio: <http://tinyurl.com/5wsf5d>

Grace Wireless Internet Radio:

<http://www.gracedigitalaudio.com/wireless-internet-radio-p-11.html>

Aluratek Internet Radio Alarm Clock: <http://tinyurl.com/69ubuc>

around for a while without getting much attention, but they're worth a look: Prices have come down, and features are up.

I tested four models, and found the best of them a great addition to the kitchen, the breakfast table, or maybe the patio.

The features vary quite a bit - this isn't a category where any manufacturer has had a breakout and created a de facto standard for others to copy.

What unites the units I tested is that they all have Wi-Fi, so they can connect to the Internet via your home hot spot and broadband connection. They also have built-in speakers, unlike the

None of these radios are dead easy to use. People who don't program speed dials on their phones or set the VCR clock will be daunted by an Internet radio. It's probably inevitable that a device that vastly expands the usefulness of the radio will be tougher to use than turning a dial.

But the programmable preset buttons mean that a somewhat tech-savvy person could buy an Internet radio for, let's say, elderly immigrant relatives, and set it up so that they could, with the touch of a button, get the sounds of the home country on the kitchen table. This presupposes that the relatives have Wi-Fi, which might be a stretch, but you get the idea.

Com one Phoenix (\$194 street, \$250 list)

was the all-around best model I tried. It's the only one that was good at playing subscribed podcasts in addition to streaming Internet radio. It's also the only one that can be used truly wirelessly, because it has rechargeable batteries that will power it for a few hours when disconnected from the wall outlet.

The interface consists of a few buttons, a wheel and an LCD screen. It's not pretty, but reasonably intuitive. There's no remote, which is good, because it's one less thing to lose. It accepts flash drives with MP3s and other music files in a USB slot.

The biggest limitation of the Phoenix is the sound quality. It has two small speakers, producing sound barely better than a run-of-the-mill

laptop. It works fine for spoken-word content, but it has by far the weakest bass of all the radios tested, so it's harder to appreciate music.



A Wi-Fi radio made by Phoenix is seen in New York, Monday, July 7, 2008.

Roku Soundbridge Radio (\$299)

is the second pick, even though it's from 2005 and showing its age. It's a large, handsome unit with stereo speakers backed up by a woofer. Together they pump out the best sound of the test. The wide blue-glowing display presents a lot of information in an attractive way.

But it's harder to use than the Phoenix, and you go back and forth between pressing buttons on the unit itself and on a remote. There is no



A Wi-Fi radio made by Roku is seen in New York, Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

support for podcasts, though you could possibly play them by first downloading them to a networked PC. The Roku can get audio files from a computer on the home network that runs Windows Media

Player, iTunes or Rhapsody software. That's better than the competing models, which talk only to Windows Media Player.

The Roku can also play music files from flash memory, but only from an SD card, not the more convenient flash drives.

And its Wi-Fi chip does only 802.11b, which can slow down your hot spot if your other devices are newer ones with the faster 802.11g.



A Wi-Fi radio made by Aluratek is seen in New York, Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

Aluratek Internet Radio Alarm Clock (\$147 street, \$150 list)

is another single-speaker solution. It's a new model, and has some software glitches that should be straightened out in time. The unit I tried got stuck when trying to connect to my hot spot, and then garbled the sound when playing from a USB flash drive. An earlier prototype unit I tried had the same problem playing from USB.

It's billed as an alarm clock, but it's a bit too complicated for that role. For example, to get it to the display the time, you either have to

leave it alone for a while, or navigate a menu. Like the other units, the kitchen or a table is a better place for it.

The Aluratek gets a point for being the only model in the test with an Ethernet port, which means you don't have to mess with Wi-Fi if you can connect it conveniently to your router with a cable.

Like the Roku unit, the Aluratek has FM and AM reception in addition to the digital features, but I didn't bother trying this, since all local stations of value broadcast online in better quality than I could pick up over the air.

Grace Wireless Internet Radio (\$172 street, \$199 list)

almost has the bass power of the Roku unit, but it's from a single speaker. Mono sound feels antiquated, and with good reason: no matter how far you turn it up, it still sounds "small."

This unit does play podcasts, but not very well. For instance, you can't pause them. There's a button with a "pause" sign on it, but if you press it, the set will start playing a preset radio stream, rather than pausing your podcast. In other words, the user interface is a bit of a bear.

There's also no provision for plugging in flash drives or memory cards.



A Wi-Fi radio made by Grace is seen in New York, Monday, July 7, 2008.

Instinct: It only looks like an iPhone

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—So many people are lining up to buy a new touch-screen wireless phone that the carrier selling it can't keep up with demand.

No, not that one.

The popularity of Sprint Nextel's Samsung Instinct—the company says its first-week sales beat those of all its other broadband-capable phones—represents a bit of a puzzler.

Yes, this device bears a resemblance to Apple's iPhone. But the Instinct doesn't come with features to rival those of the iPhone. Nor does its price, \$229.99 before a \$100 mail-in rebate with a two-year contract, offer a big discount over of Apple's creation.

Like many phones, the Instinct looks much better than it works. A polished slab about half an inch thick and weighing only

finger across an image of a switch—can prevent you from hanging up on the boss after poking the wrong button on the keypad or the screen.

The Instinct also slays voice mail as Sprint users have known it with a “visual voice mail” display that lets you see who left a message and when, then play their recordings back in any sequence you desire.

Sprint advertises more than five hours of talk time, but even the nearly 4.5 hours an Instinct loaned by Sprint achieved compares well to many other phones.

The Instinct comes with a long inventory of added capabilities: Web browsing, e-mail, text/picture/video messaging, digital music and video playback, photography and video recording, GPS navigation and so on. But it fumbles most of these more ambitious tasks.

Start with its on-screen keyboard, which offers neither effective spell-checking nor tactile feedback, ensuring plenty of typos.

14-minute call to tech support in my case), Sprint doesn't let you do the same with your computer's calendar or notes. And there's no to-do list.

The Instinct handles multimedia only slightly better than productivity. It can serve as a decent photo viewer and music and video player, but its Internet TV service suffers from awful picture quality, and the music store sells iPod-incompatible files. And the 2 gigabytes of MicroSD card storage won't last long.

The phone's mapping software can issue driving directions in moments, but those are becoming standard features—and other phones' navigation services offer walking and biking directions, too.

And because you can't add software of your own, you're out of options to make this would-be smartphone anymore intelligent.

So what makes the Instinct worthy of any fuss? Two things come to mind.

One is Sprint's blessedly simple pricing plans, all of which feature unlimited Internet use, text/picture/video messaging, navigation assistance, and Sprint's online music and video feeds, leaving your only option how many weekday minutes to buy: \$69.99 a month gets you 450, \$89.99 includes 900, and \$99.99 allows unlimited calls.

The other is choice. The

iPhone is an amazing machine—and the iPhone 3G, due next week, looks to match its earlier success. But in the United States, Apple has chosen to handcuff the iPhone to a single provider, AT&T Wireless. What if AT&T's coverage excludes your home or office? What if its prices, policies or service already turned you against it?

A phone like the Instinct can be a fair compromise for people looking to use a smartphone for entertainment, not productivity. It provides some of the things you might have hoped to get in an iPhone and does so with more flair than a BlackBerry, Palm or Windows Mobile phone. That's no ringing endorsement, but it is what can pass for progress in the wireless market.



4.4 ounces, this smartphone dispenses with almost all of the standard buttons, save a few on the sides that perform such basic tasks as turning it on and adjusting its volume, in favor of a large touch-sensitive screen that fills most of its face.

That roomy display, more than 3 inches diagonally, allows for on-screen buttons that even thicker fingers should be able to hit. And you can scroll through its contacts and recent-calls lists with a flick of a finger—though a search function is missing. You can also call somebody without lifting a finger by using the Instinct's voice dialing.

Its on-screen slider controls—for instance, turning on its built-in speaker phone or ending a call requires you to move your

The Instinct also doesn't make enough use of its mobile broadband Internet access (limited to Sprint's coverage, as the Instinct lacks a WiFi receiver). Its Web browser struggles as much with full-size sites as the antiquated software on Palm OS phones, taking an irritatingly long time to display some of them. Its e-mail software ignores Web formatting in messages and can't read PDF attachments, one of the most common kinds of files to arrive in a message.

This phone also doesn't work as an organizer for your life. Although the crude Windows software Sprint includes can synchronize your Outlook Express or Outlook contacts list (something that required a

Fiber Internet growth overtakes cable

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time, more people around the world are signing up for fiber-optic broadband service than for cable Internet service, according to a British research firm.

Fiber providers added 4.2 million customers in the first quarter, while 2.5 million customers signed up for cable modems, according to a report released Wednesday by Point Topic.

The bulk of the new fiber subscribers are in China, where 2.5 million signed up, for a total of 16.7 million. The U.S. is in fourth place after Japan and

Korea. Point Topic counted 303,000 new U.S. fiber customers, for a total of 2.6 million.

Fiber-optic Internet connections provide faster speeds, but the cost of the buildout is daunting. In deregulated telecommunications markets like those of the U.S. and Western Europe, carriers are unsure if fiber is worth the investment because they are competing there with cheaper technologies like cable and DSL, and it's unclear how much regulators will let them profit.

“It's difficult to persuade operators to make the sort of com-

mitment needed when they can't guarantee their returns,” said Oliver Johnson, chief executive of Point Topic. Without government funding, it will be a long time before fiber connections are widespread, he said.

Verizon Communications Inc. is the only major U.S. telecommunications company to pull fiber all the way to subscriber homes. Verizon accounts for slightly more than two-thirds of total U.S. fiber hookups. The rest of the fiber-to-the-home, or FTTH, deployments are by small phone companies and by

municipalities.

Cable modems are far more common, at 79.6 million worldwide, according to Point Topic, compared to 42.1 million fiber connections. More than half, or 40.1 million, of all cable subscribers are in the U.S., which has a comparatively extensive cable infrastructure.

Broadband over phone lines remains the most common means of Internet access. Globally, 238.1 million households had DSL, or Digital Subscriber Line, an increase of 9.3 million over the quarter, Point Topic said.



Gmail allowing remote log-off in case you forget

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the benefits of Web-based e-mail is the ability to log on from just about anywhere - at home, at work, a friend's house, a mobile device or even a public library or cybercafe.

But what if you forget to log off? Someone else who encounters an active session not only can read your personal correspondences, but they also can use that account to grab your passwords from many online services that offer to send reminders via e-mail.

Google Inc.'s Gmail service is trying to address that by letting you know if you're still logged on elsewhere and giving you a chance to disconnect remotely.

At the bottom of a Gmail inbox is a small notice of other active sessions. The new feature, being rolled out to users in waves, also offers some information on the time and location of recent Gmail activities.

The notification is bound to be useful, though it's by no

means foolproof. You have to be log on somewhere to learn of other active sessions, and you have to look carefully for that notice. And if you have chosen to save your password on the other computer, someone else can simply log back on unless you change it.

But the feature does offer an extra level of comfort.

“Usually I remember to sign out, but every once in a while I wonder if I really did,” Gmail engineer Erwin D'Souza wrote on a company blog. “Now I no longer have to wonder.”

Other major Web e-mail providers - Yahoo Inc., Microsoft Corp.'s Hotmail, Time Warner Inc.'s AOL - also allow simultaneous sessions, but they do not provide similar notice or ability to remotely log off. However, AOL does have a setting forcing automatic logoff after as little as 30 minutes of inactivity. Microsoft said Hotmail will ask for a password if the session remains idle for too long.

Police want you to fight crime w/text msgs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Police in the 1970s urged citizens to “drop a dime” in a pay phone to report crimes anonymously. Now in an increasing number of cities, tipsters are being invited to use their thumbs—to identify criminals using text messages.

Police hope the idea helps recruit teens and 20-somethings who wouldn’t normally dial a Crime Stoppers hot line to share information with authorities.

“If somebody hears Johnny is going to bring a gun to school, hopefully they’ll text that in,” said Sgt. Brian Bernardi of the Louisville, Ky., Metro Police Department, which rolled out its text-message tip line in June.

Departments in Boston and Cincinnati started accepting anonymous text tips about a year ago. Since then, more than 100 communities have taken similar steps or plan to do so. The Internet-based systems route messages through a server that encrypts cell phone numbers before they get to police, making tips virtually impossible to track.

In Louisville earlier this week, Bernardi’s computer displayed a text message from a person identified only as “Tip563.” It read: “someone has vandalized the school van at valor school on bardstown rd in fern creek.” The note also reported illegal dumping in a trash container and in the woods.

“It’s obvious that the future of communication is texting,” said officer Michael Charbonnier, commander of the Boston Police Department’s Crime Stoppers unit. “You look at these kids today and that’s all they’re doing. You see five kids standing on the corner,



In an increasing number of cities, tipsters are being invited to use their thumbs—to identify criminals using text messages.

and they’re texting instead of having a conversation with each other.”

When Boston adopted the system last year, the first text tip yielded an arrest in a New Hampshire slaying. In the 12 months that ended June 15, Boston police logged 678 text tips, nearly matching the 727 phone tips during the same period.

Earlier this year, a text tip led to the ar-

rest of a notorious suspect in a drug case.

“We’ve gotten some great drug information, specific times, dates, names of suspects, locations, pickup times, license plate numbers,” Charbonnier said. In another instance, a hearing-impaired man who could not call 911 used a text message to report a domestic violence incident.

Since the beginning of the year, cities such as Tampa, San Francisco, Seattle, Denver, Indianapolis, New Orleans and Detroit have started their own text-based tip systems, according to Texas-based Anderson Software, a leading providers of the technology. Many cities are adding the text messages to a system that already accepted

anonymous tips through a Web site.

Lisa Haber, a sheriff’s detective who heads the Tampa-area Crime Stoppers unit, recently spent an hour exchanging 21 text messages with a tipster about a possible stolen car. It didn’t yield an arrest, but Haber said it allowed her to glimpse the potential of being able to communicate in real time with texters. A marketing blitz will help get the word out when students return to school later this summer.

“It’s got a lot of potential,” said Cincinnati police Lt. David Fink, whose agency has collected about five text tips a month since adopting the system in May 2007. “Just like when we started Crime Stoppers 27 years ago, it took some time for it to catch on.”

Sarah Coss, an 18-year-old incoming freshman at the University of Tampa, typically logs around 6,000 text messages a month chatting to her friends. She thinks people who use text messaging every day will be more likely to report crimes that way, and the impersonal nature of text messaging will give more people her age the confidence to share information with authorities.

“It might take a while for people to know about it and get more comfortable with it, and for people to know it’s really anonymous, and they’re not going to get in trouble,” she said.

Just like callers to a crime hot line, text tipsters can collect rewards for significant information. It’s done with the cooperation of banks that hand over the cash—no questions asked—to people who present a code issued by police.

Officers acknowledge it may take time to get used to the text shorthand favored by younger people, who tend to LOL at the relative technological cluelessness of their parents’ generation.

“We were kind of nervous about that, having to learn a new code language,” Bernardi chuckled.

Edit your DNA: ‘Gene wiki’ to debut on Wikipedia

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Researchers plan to create a library of human genetics, with entries on the workings of indi-

Flickr turns to Getty to sell amateur photos

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Flickr, a popular online photo-sharing site owned by Yahoo Inc., is teaming up with Getty Images to offer shutterbugs a chance to turn their hobby into a moneymaking endeavor.

Under a partnership announced this week, Getty’s editors will peruse Flickr to find pictures that may appeal to newspapers, magazines, book publishers, advertising agencies and other businesses.

Getty will then contact photographers who posted shots with sales potential to see if they’re interested in licensing the pictures. Any ensuing sales will be split between Getty and the participating photographers.

The arrangement marks the latest example of how the Web is creating opportunities for people outside the traditional media industry to get paid for their photographic, writing or reporting skills. The phenomenon is sometimes known as “citizen journalism.”

It’s the first time that Flickr has set up a sales channel since the site started four years ago. Yahoo bought the service for about \$35 million in 2005.

Since then, Flickr has established itself as one of the Internet’s leading spots for amateur photography. More than 2 billion pictures have been posted by the site’s 27 million members.

vidual genes, and make it available for anyone in Wikipedia rather than in an obscure academic format.

Authors of the “gene wiki” say they have created 7,500 Wikipedia entries on different genes and are editing another 650 already existing entries.

The group outlined its aims this week in a paper published on the Public Library of Science’s online journal, PLoS Biology. The eight authors are from the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation in San Diego, San Diego State University and Washington University in St. Louis.

“With the entire community’s input,

Japan backs joint display-tech research

TOKYO (AP)—The Japanese government said Thursday it will support Sony Corp., Sharp Corp. and other domestic companies in joint development of super-thin TVs based on organic light-emitting diodes.

The group will aim to develop a 40-inch OLED display sometime after 2015, the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization, or NEDO, said in a statement. NEDO is a Japan government agency that promotes research into new technologies.

OLEDs use light-emitting organic compounds similar to those found in fireflies. TVs using OLEDs don’t require a backlight and can be made thinner than those based on traditional liquid crystal or plasma displays.

The technology is still young, but Japanese manufacturers are eager to get the jump on South Korean TV heavyweights such as Samsung Electronics

we envision this gene wiki evolving into a collection of collaboratively created, continually updated, community-reviewed review articles for every gene in the human genome,” the authors wrote.

Virtually anyone can edit an entry on Wikipedia, the mammoth Internet encyclopedia that was founded in 2001 and built by volunteer contributors. That could mean the gene wiki will be overwritten—with errors—by someone else who comes along.

Indeed, the scientists considered an alternative, Citizendium, whose volunteer contributors are expected to

provide their real names. Citizendium asks experts in given fields to check articles for accuracy. But ultimately, the gene wiki researchers said, they chose Wikipedia because it is highly popular and the site’s volunteer editors tend to quickly correct inaccuracies.

Wikipedia’s de facto leader, Jimmy Wales, cheered the endorsement. “We are very excited to see academics getting involved in Wikipedia in a systematic way, and encourage other disciplines to follow suit,” he wrote in an e-mail. “I am asking our volunteers to form a welcoming committee to help with this effort.”

Co. and LG Display Co.

Last year Sony introduced the first OLED TV for the commercial market—an 11-inch TV with a screen just 3 millimeters (0.12 inches) thick. The TV went on sale at roughly 10 times the price of comparable LCD models.

Sony is working to mass produce a 20-inch model by next year and has pegged the technology as a key to regaining its elite status as an electronics innovator.

The company will now work with some of its biggest rivals in development, but spokesman Chisato Kitsukawa said it will keep advanced technologies in-house.

Kitsukawa said Sony was keen to work with component makers and companies that will produce manufacturing equipment.

“OLED TVs won’t take off if we don’t foster an infrastructure like the one that exists for LCDs,” he said.

Sharp is taking a longer view on OLED

TVs and has no fixed plans for commercial production. The company has invested heavily in LCD manufacturing and believes it will remain the dominant technology for at least the next 10 years, spokeswoman Miyuki Nakayama said.

The joint research is to run from this year through March 2013. It will also focus on increasing the longevity and power efficiency of OLED TVs, as well as efficient manufacturing.

Other companies involved in the effort include Sumitomo Chemical Co. and Hitachi Zosen Corp.

While OLED technology is seen as a promising candidate to replace the current generation of plasma and LCD TVs, it is expensive, difficult to employ for large screens and fades faster than other TV technologies.

OLEDs are also used in smaller devices such as mobile phones and car navigation systems.

Photo move is too easy

By **CARYN EVE MURRAY**

(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

It’s almost as easy to move pictures from your camera phone to your PC as it is to make a call. Here are three ways:

1. If you have stored the photo on your phone’s removable memory card, take the card out, insert it into a compatible memory card reader attached to your PC. Then, from Windows Explorer, select the photos you want and drag them into your Windows picture folder.

2. Some camera phones come with software, such as Nokia PC Suite, that allows photos and even video to be transferred automatically when the phone syncs with the PC. Connect the PC and phone using a cable or Bluetooth connection and follow the on-screen instructions.

3. If your phone has Internet access, e-mail the photos to yourself from your phone as attached files. This is very time-consuming for higher resolution photos, and unless you have a very generous data plan for your phone, it could become costly.

Life & Style

Doris Day biography paints less than idyllic life

By SUSAN KING
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Her life on screen played like an American fairy tale.

Blond, bouncy and beautiful, Doris Day captivated mid-20th century moviegoers in a series of rollicking romantic comedies with her favorite leading man, Rock Hudson, including "Pillow Talk" and "Lover Come Back," as well as the western musical "Calamity Jane," Alfred Hitchcock's thriller "The Man Who Knew Too Much," the musical drama "Love Me or Leave Me" and many more.

A former singer with Les Brown's band in the 1940s, Day also was a best-selling recording artist whose trademark songs—"Sentimental Journey" and the Oscar-winning "Que Sera, Sera"—seemed to epitomize her upbeat spirit. During her years in the spotlight, Day was always portrayed as happily married—to third husband and manager Martin Melcher—and loving mother to son Terry.

But the real story couldn't be further from the truth, according to David Kaufman's expansive new biography, "Doris Day: The Untold Story of the Girl Next Door." Instead it's a sad story—partially told in the actress' 1975 autobiography—of a talented woman who was unloved by her father, pushed by an ambitious stage mother, with four failed—and mostly loveless—marriages, who never got what she wanted: simply to have a happy home life.

"What is even sadder to me and what I have learned in the course of researching this book, interviewing people and from quotes from her own autobiography is how insecure she is about her looks and about her talents," said Kaufman, a theater critic and author.

"This woman has lived so much of her life unhappy with herself, I think, and yet she brought so much happiness to so many people all around the world," he added.

Now 86, Day has lived in Carmel, Calif., for nearly 30 years and spends her time rescuing abandoned and wounded animals and overseeing the Doris Day Foundation for Animals. She doesn't do interviews and wouldn't talk with Kaufman.

"I did try to talk to her," he says. "I went into this project expecting that even if I would get to talk to her, she would not talk to me about her past because it is my understanding that she will not talk about the past. I think one of the reasons is the only way



LOS ANGELES TIMES
David Kaufman researched Doris Day's life, but the actress wouldn't talk to him.

she could put some adversity behind her was by leaving the past and walking away from it and devoting all of her energies to pets. That is the only thing she wants to talk about."

Kaufman believes the reason the actress won't talk about her life is, "and this was the biggest surprise to me, is because she feels so completely disassociat-

fan and admirer of her talent. I always felt that her acting in particular was underestimated by the world at large. One of my primary motivations for doing this book was to hopefully remedy that, to have her talent become more recognized."

Unlike the brassy blondes of the 1930s and '40s, such as Jean Harlow, Mae West and Betty

Too Much," in which she played the mother of a kidnapped boy. And Day was also a deft romantic comedy star opposite Clark Gable in "Teacher's Pet," in her sex comedies with Hudson, as well as with James Garner.

"She is easy to deride," Thomson noted. "But her fans were devoted and her energy was authentic."

Kaufman interviewed several of Day's closest friends, including actress Kaye Ballard and choreographer Donald Saddler. He was aided in his efforts when columnist Liz Smith devoted a column to the book three years ago. "She basically declared this is the definitive book and that led to people ... and they led to other people and it was like the house that Jack built."

Kaufman says that Day's reputation as a movie star suffered in the mid- to late 1960s because Melcher kept producing romantic comedies in which the forty-something actress was playing the same type of bouncy—and often virginal—heroine she did early in her career.

"The last handful of movies were schlock," says Kaufman. "They were atrocious. If Melcher had let her make 'The Graduate'—it was a year before his death—it could have taken her career and certainly a reputation to a certain other level."

Although he tried to avoid armchair psychology in the book, Kaufman says Day's choice of husbands, including her abusive first spouse—musician Al Jorden—and the bombastic Melcher, who was more a business partner than soul mate, are connected to her horrible relationship with her father, William, who abandoned the family when Day was young.

"In essence what she was doing was constantly looking for people who reminded her of her father because she was hoping she would work out what she had not worked out with him. But in the process she just repeated the lousy relationship."

Kaufman believes that Day and Hudson, who was gay, became fast friends because, "They realized they were the opposite of who they really were and they could really relate to each other," says Kaufman, adding "I don't think she's ever had a truly confidential, candid conversation with anybody on this Earth. I don't think she is capable of being intimate."

In essence what she was doing was constantly looking for people who reminded her of her father because she was hoping she would work out what she had not worked out with him. But in the process she just repeated the lousy relationship.

ed from who 'Doris Day' was."

That's why her friends call her "Clara"—a nickname bestowed upon her by one of her costars, Billy DeWolfe, years ago. "She signs her notes as Clara," Kaufman says. "She answers the phone as Clara."

When Kaufman began the book about eight years ago, he didn't know that much about the career or life of Doris Day, who was born Doris Kappelhoff in Cincinnati in 1922.

"There were 12 or 15 of her 30 films I never saw before I started researching the book," he says. "But I was an enormous

Grable, Day was more the girl next door, both tomboyish and sexy. She fit perfectly into the zeitgeist of the 1950s—a decade of prosperity, hope and wholesomeness. "She hoped to suggest that the world was OK," wrote David Thomson in "The New Biographical Dictionary of Film." "She was the home fire that refused to admit the Cold War. Above all, she was optimistic."

She turned in terrific dramatic performances in such films as "Love Me or Leave Me," in which she played singer Ruth Etting, and "The Man Who Knew

Her passion for animals, Kaufman believes, is due to the fact that she unconsciously identifies with them. "Most people don't realize all the animals she has had, she got them because they were abandoned, left

by her gate or sick or wounded in some way and she basically nursed them back to health. She identifies with these animals because she feels like a wounded animal. And she was a wounded and abandoned human being."

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

"*When You Are Engulfed in Flames*," by David Sedaris (Little, Brown: \$25.99) Musings on life and smoking.

"*The Last Lecture*," by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion: \$21.95) A professor with terminal cancer urges us to seize life's moments.

"*What Happened*," by Scott McClellan (PublicAffairs: \$27.95) The former Bush press secretary says the administration deceived the public about Iraq.

"*The Secret*," by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: \$23.95) Life's secrets, distilled from oral tradition, literature, religion and philosophy.

"*The Political Mind*," by George Lakoff (Viking: \$25.95) The science behind political appeals to the emotions.

"*Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea*," by Chelsea Handler (Simon Spotlight: \$24.95) The talk-show host skewers dating, family and work.

"*The Post-American World*," by Fareed Zakaria (W.W. Norton: \$25.95) What the future holds with the United States fading as the world's leading economy.

"*Why Is God Laughing?*" by Deepak Chopra (Harmony: \$21.95) How to find joy through laughter.

"*The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder*," by Vincent Bugliosi (Vanguard: \$26.95) The case against the president for the murder of U.S. troops in Iraq.

"*Just Who Will You Be?*" by Maria Shriver (Hyperion: \$14.95) Ask who, not what, you want to be.

Fiction

"*The Enchantress of Florence*," by Salman Rushdie (Random House: \$26) A traveler arrives at the Mughal emperor's court with a beguiling tale.

"*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*," by Junot Diaz (Riverhead: \$24.95) A sci-fi-loving nerd and his immigrant family are haunted by the past.

"*Fearless Fourteen*," by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's Press: \$27.95) Bounty hunter Stephanie Plum faces a stalker, a kidnaper and an old robbery.

"*The Host*," by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: \$25.99) Alien invaders take over the minds of humans.

"*Snuff*," by Chuck Palahniuk (Doubleday: \$24.95) A porn star tries to have sex with 600 men in one day.

"*Sail*," by James Patterson and Howard Roughan (Little, Brown: \$27.99) A widow takes her children on a sailing vacation that goes desperately wrong.

"*Unaccustomed Earth*," by Jhumpa Lahiri (Knopf: \$25) Stories of U.S.-born children and their Bengali-born parents straddling cultures.

"*Chasing Harry Winston*," by Lauren Weisberger (Simon & Schuster: \$25.95) Girlfriends make a vow to radically updo their lives.

"*The Spies of Warsaw*," by Alan Furst (Random House: \$25) A French diplomat tries to uncover Germany's plans in 1937 Poland.

"*Netherland*," by Joseph O'Neill (Pantheon: \$23.95) An equities analyst's life is upended after Sept. 11, when his wife and son flee New York for London.

(c) 2008 Los Angeles Times

Memoir says Madonna's true love is herself

NEW YORK (AP)—A memoir by Madonna's brother says the singer really does love her husband, director Guy Ritchie, but, apparently, not as much as she loves her career and herself.

"I hope that it is Kabbalah's lesson that she is not the center of the universe," Christopher Ciccone writes in "Life With My Sister Madonna," scheduled to come out next Tuesday but purchased in advance by The Associated Press.

The 342-page book, published by Simon Spotlight Entertainment, arrives at a time when Madonna has been linked to the breakup of the marriage between New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez and his wife, Cynthia Rodriguez, who filed for divorce Monday.

Madonna issued a statement Sunday saying that she has "nothing to do with the state of his marriage or what spiritual path he may choose to study," apparently referring to reports that the singer had introduced the ballplayer to Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism.

According to her brother, she and Ritchie love each other, despite rumors that they are splitting up. He believes they are "passionately committed" to staying married, with the help of Kabbalah.

Christopher Ciccone, 47, worked often with his older sister, designing and directing her "Girlie Show" tour in 1993 and serving as artistic director of her 1991 documentary, "Madon-

na: Truth or Dare." But in his book, he says they are no longer close.

Madonna's representative, Liz Rosenberg, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the singer had not read the memoir but found it "very upsetting" that Ciccone "has decided to sell a book based on his sister."

"I would have to assume she has come to terms with the fact that they do not have a close and loving relationship," Rosenberg said. "And with the book coming out, I assume that will remove the chances of that ever happening."

Ciccone's memoir includes everything from gossip about Madonna's sex life (she lost her virginity to a "guy named Russell") to anecdotes about such ex-lovers as Sean Penn (Madonna called him a "paranoid control freak") and Warren Beatty, who allegedly cornered Ciccone at a party and quizzed him intensely on what it was like to be gay.

"There is no subject that doesn't fascinate Warren Beatty," Rosenberg said.

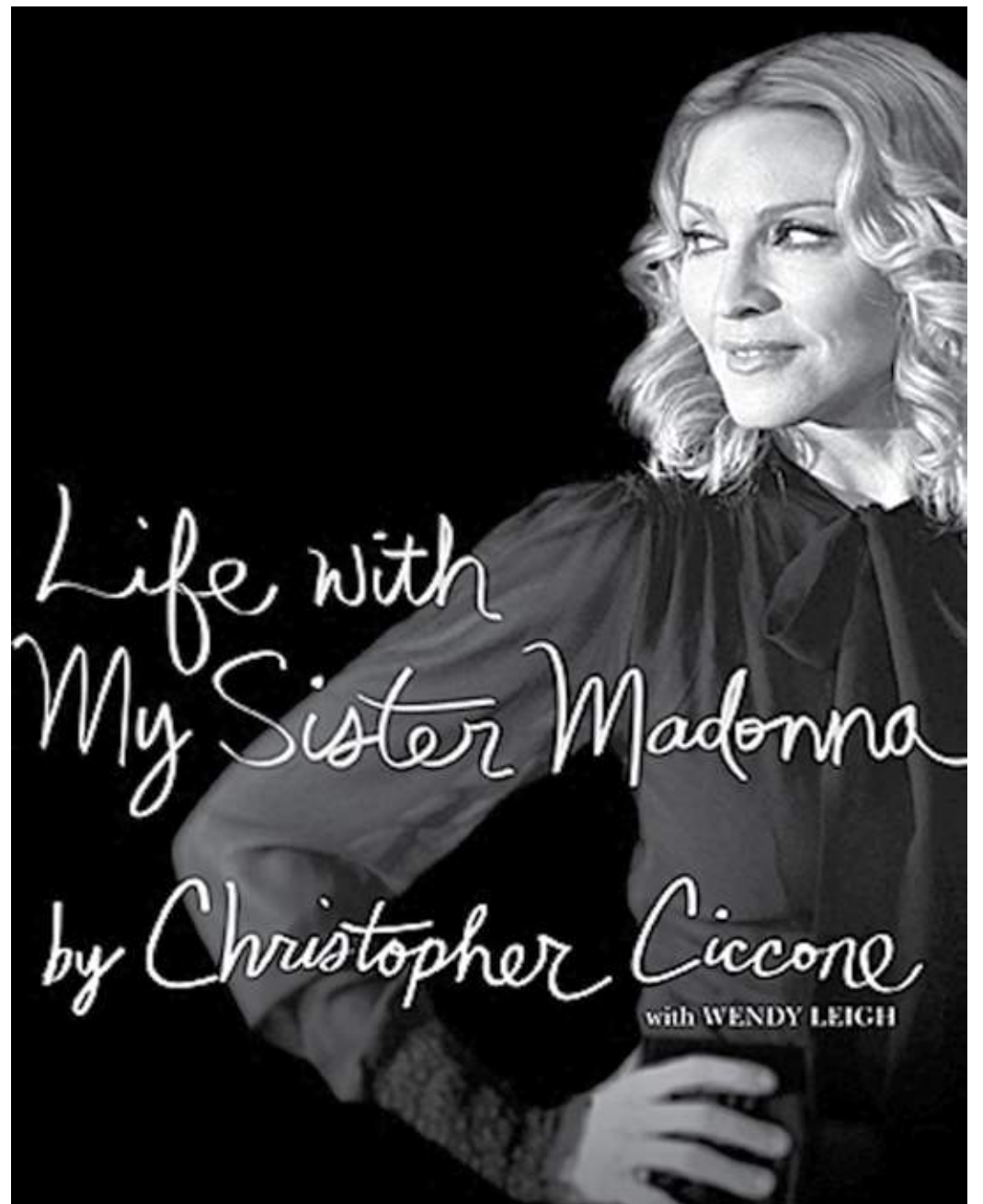
The book offers snapshots of Bruce Willis allegedly hitting on other women while still married to Demi Moore, of Ciccone dancing with Moore at a drag queen club, of Madonna alleg-

edly kissing Gwyneth Paltrow on the mouth during a New Year's Eve dance at which Ciccone said that he and Ritchie got into a shoving match.

Ciccone describes Ritchie as a man's man undisturbed by homophobic humor, whose emergence in Madonna's life marks "the death knell" of the Ciccones' brother-sister bond. Ciccone portrays Madonna as a show business survivor - bossy and self-absorbed, sometimes compassionate, mindful of "how little faith many people once had in her."

"Life With My Sister Madonna" was co-authored by celebrity biographer Wendy Leigh, who has written books on Liza Minnelli, Grace Kelly and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Simon Spotlight, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, has announced a first printing of 350,000.

Earlier this year, stores were asked to order the book "blind," without knowing the author or subject. Last month, the publisher released the subject matter - and the name of the author. In 2006, William Morrow offered a mysterious tell-all that turned out to be by Princess Diana's former butler, Paul Burrell, who had already written about her. Retailers were angered and the book sold poorly.



In this photo released by Simon Spotlight Entertainment shows the cover of "Life with My Sister Madonna,"

BY CHRISTOPHER CICCONE.

Crystal skulls: fact or fiction?

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Some mysteries are such fun you almost don't want to know the truth. That may help explain why people are fascinated with crystal skulls.

Happy to share the spotlight with the latest Indiana Jones movie, the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History is putting its crystal skull on display starting Thursday.

"People like to believe in something greater than them-

selves," Smithsonian anthropologist Jane MacLaren Walsh said, and crystal skulls are mysterious and beautiful.

The skulls "are a fascinating example of artifacts that have made their way into museums with no scientific evidence to prove their rumored pre-Columbian origins," she added.

Crystals carved into the shape of a human skull fed the 19th century's need for drama and mystery and its fascination with

death. They were supposed to be the creation of ancient Mesoamericans—Aztecs, Mixtecs, Toltecs, perhaps Maya.

The skulls were claimed to represent the art and religion of these peoples. Some even said the skulls had special, even supernatural, powers.

Scientists say it ain't so.

Nonetheless, the giant crystal skull that mysteriously arrived at the Smithsonian 16 years ago is out of its locked cabinet in Walsh's office and will be on public view until Sept. 1.

Studying this skull led Walsh to extend her investigation into crystal skulls in other museums and to conclude that all are fakes, made in the 19th and 20th centuries.

"In the past, most carved skulls were assumed to be ancient," she said. After all, why would someone go to the trouble of faking one?

Still, she is glad it arrived at her doorstep and prompted the study. "This particular object has told us a whole new story," she said.

The museum's director, Cristian Samper, said people often ask him if there is a real Indiana Jones doing archaeological work.

"I tell them there are several," he said. "People doing field work that is every bit as interesting."

Of the many crystal skulls in museums and private collections around the world, the Smithsonian's is one of the largest, at 10 inches high and weighing 30 pounds. It was mailed to the museum anonymously, accompanied by a note claiming it was of Aztec origin.

It isn't, Walsh said.

The skulls were carved from blocks of quartz—sometimes called rock crystal—and show the marks of modern carving tools. That means they were not made before the 19th century. The Smithsonian one, she said, seems to have been made between 1950 and 1960.

Indeed, no crystal skulls have ever been found at an archaeological site.

True, skulls appear in Aztec and Toltec art. But, as scientists point out, they always were carved in relief in basalt, a dark rock.

Scientists think the crystal skulls were made in Europe and Mexico, most in the 19th century, a period when there was a thriving market in antiquities, real and fake.



This undated handout photo provided by the Smithsonian Institution shows the Smithsonian Crystal Skull.

What about their claimed special powers?

Here's what the British Museum has to say:

"Large quartz crystal skulls have generated great interest and fascination since they began to surface in public and private collections during the second half of the 19th century. The British Museum views the skull in its collection as an enigmatic object of great interest but with no supernatural properties."

None of this, though, discourages movies from featuring crystal skulls or museums from joining in. Indeed, in addition to putting its skull on display, the Smithsonian is reporting on the topic in Smithsonian Magazine's July issue and featuring the skulls in a documentary Thursday night on the Smithsonian Channel.

Crystal skulls also are on public view at the British Museum in London and the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris.



AP

This undated handout photo provided by the Smithsonian Institution shows Dr. Jane Walsh observing the Mitchell-Hedges skull, currently owned by Bill Homann, at the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology in Washington.

The best films of people at their worst

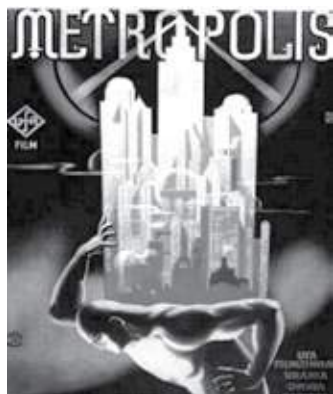
By MICHAEL SRAGOW
(C) 2008, THE BALTIMORE SUN

The great Sam Peckinpah once said, "It's not just blowing up a bridge, it's the way you blow up a bridge."

That's how I feel about apocalyptic or dystopian movies. It's not just blowing up the world, it's the way you blow up the world.

Some people questioned Pixar's decision to base "Wall-E" on a trash-strewn Earth, a robot hero and humans who've evolved into pudding pops. The last laugh is on the naysayers now that audiences are discovering the inventiveness, wit, emotion—and, yes, hope—that director Andrew Stanton and his team have invested in every inch of their sometimes bleak and barbed design.

Of course, filming a cautionary tale without making it strident, or making audiences despondent, presents a steep challenge. For my money, even the gifted Alfonso Cuarón ("Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban") flubbed that challenge with "Children of Men." But many moviemakers have covered the screen with art or entertainment glory when depicting humankind at its worst. Here's a handful of films that present beauty, humor or thrills—as well as fear—as humanity flirts with the end of days.



"Metropolis" (1927)

When Fritz Lang's portrait of a dream city turned nightmare premiered in Berlin, no one had seen anything like it. H.G. Wells called it "quite the silliest movie." Yet George Lucas borrowed from it for "Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones," as Ridley Scott did for "Blade Runner." James Whale's laboratories in "Frankenstein" and "Bride of Frankenstein" gave off the same whiff of retro-futuristic medievalism as the lair of Lang's mad scientist Rotwang; Rotwang himself was reborn as the title character of Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove"; and Rotwang's femme fatale robot, Hel, became Kubrick's HAL in "2001."

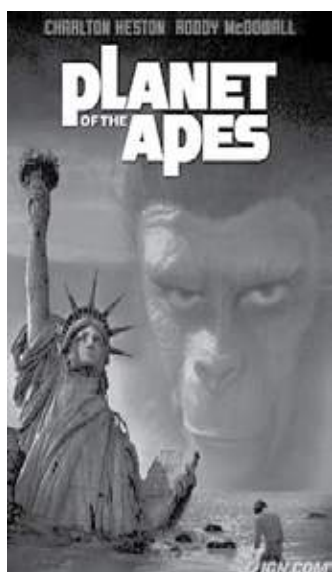
At the center of this towering spectacle, which includes a flashback to the Tower of Babel, is class warfare between workers who live underground and the elite living the high life in their skyscrapers. But the

movie's imaginative extremism is what still drives audiences wild. When the robot wiggles near-naked in front of wealthy men and winks at them with her mechanical eyes, these guys are lost. (Actually, what's nightmarish to us is how sexy the robot is when she's just a featureless automaton.)



"Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" (1964)

"Dr. Strangelove" started out as Kubrick's somber response to the nuclear brinkmanship of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Laboring on the screenplay while their stomachs rumbled in the wee hours of the night, Kubrick and his frequent collaborator, James B. Harris, wondered: What would happen if the denizens of their War Room were in the same position? Would they order out to the Gayety Delicatessen for sandwiches? Months later, Kubrick hired writer Terry Southern to help him counterpoint nuclear horror with absurdity. The result is a masterpiece of deadpan drollery.



"Planet of the Apes" (1968)

The original, like the source novel by Pierre Boulle, was a scintillating mix of sci-fi adventure and allegory that spawned four big-screen follow-ups, a live-action TV series and a Saturday morning cartoon show—all before Tim Burton got his hands on it. Younger kids loved the talking apes on the mystery planet who lorded over pathetic humans. College kids loved what they and Charlton Heston's astronaut antihero

said, which replayed the slogans of the Vietnam and civil rights era in simian drag. Underneath the sweeping action, the whole movie was a take on "monkey see, monkey do," containing parables of minority persecution and revolt in both the ape and human realms.



"2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968)

More apes. With typical audacity, Kubrick began his picture with tribes of ape men competing for food and water and be-

ing nudged into humanhood by a mysterious, perfect ebony slab that inspires their use of weaponry.

The movie starts with the emergence of Homo sapiens; it ends with the emergence of Homo who-knows. Dave Bowman (Keir Dullea), the lone survivor of a space mission to Jupiter, undergoes a strange death and transfiguration under the spell of the same (or an identical) black slab. He becomes a figure in an astral fetal sac.

Is he an upwardly mobile, evolutionary mutation or a monster capable of crushing a planet between his fingers? The movie's most famous character is the space mission's evil supercomputer, HAL, but what makes it haunting are the existential questions that Kubrick leaves hanging in midair.

"Weekend" (1968)

Do you want to feel good about driving less? Jean-Luc Godard's phantasmagoria of a road movie plays better now than it did 40 years ago: It brought road rage to the edge of infinity and turned a traffic jam into a paradigm for



the end of civilization as we know it. Suggested escapist alternative: George Miller's original "Mad Max" (1980).

"The Terminator" (1984)

Every piece of action in James Cameron's exciting and intricate B movie adds to the master plan of the plot, in which a 2029 computer network sends a cyborg into the past to kill the mother of a future resistance leader. When Arnold Schwarzenegger took a scalpel to his wounded eyeball in the movie, it was an



act of black-comic aggression: pop Luis Bunuel. When he ran over a toy truck, viewers realized that his world had gone beyond dog-eat-dog to machine-eat-machine.

In my favorite subplot, dogs were able to sniff out intruders in the good guys' ranks. In his own comic-book fashion, Cameron expressed a genuine, organic point of view—he was against nuclear war and mechanization, and also against arrogant social planning.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

TOP 10 POP SINGLES

This Week Last Week

1. Katy Perry No. 2 "I Kissed a Girl" (Capitol)
2. Lil Wayne feat. Static Major No. 3 "Lollipop" (Cash Money)
3. Leona Lewis No. 4 "Bleeding Love" (Syco/3)
4. Rihanna No. 5 "Take a Bow" (SRP/Def Jam)
5. Natasha Bedingfield No. 6 "Pocketful of Sunshine" (Phonogenic)
6. Coldplay No. 1 "Viva La Vida" (Capitol)
7. Chris Brown No. 8 "Forever" (Jive)
8. Plies feat. Ne-Yo No. 11 "Bust It Baby Part 2" (Big Gates/Slip-N-Slide)
9. The Pussycat Dolls No. 18 "When I Grow Up" (Interscope)
10. Miley Cyrus No. 70 "7 Things" (Hollywood)

TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Coldplay new entry "Viva La Vida or Death and All His Friends" (Capitol)
2. Lil Wayne No. 1 "The Carter III" (Cash Money/Universal Motown)
3. Soundtrack new entry "Camp Rock" (Walt Disney)
4. Various Artists No. 3 "NOW 28" (EMI/Sony BMG/Universal/Zomba)
5. Plies No. 2 "Definition of Real" (Big Gates/Slip-N-Slide/Atlantic)
6. Usher No. 5 "Here I Stand" (LaFace)
7. Rihanna No. 124 "Good Girl Gone Bad" (SRP/Def Jam)
8. Disturbed No. 4 "Indestructible" (Reprise)

9. Katy Perry new entry "One of the Boys" (Capitol)
10. The Offspring new entry "Rise and Fall, Rage and Grace" (Columbia)

TOP 10 HOT COUNTRY SINGLES

1. Kenny Chesney No. 1 "Better As a Memory" (BNA)
2. Blake Shelton No. 3 "Home" (Warner Bros.)
3. Montgomery Gentry No. 6 "Back When I Knew It All" (Columbia)
4. Carrie Underwood No. 2 "Last Name" (Arista)
5. Alan Jackson No. 7 "Good Time" (Arista Nashville)
6. Brad Paisley No. 4 "I'm Still a Guy" (Arista Nashville)
7. Dierks Bentley No. 8 "Trying to Stop Your Leaving" (Capitol Nashville)
8. Rascal Flatts No. 5 "Every Day" (Lyric Street)
9. Brooks & Dunn No. 10 "Put a Girl In It" (Arista Nashville)
10. Sugarland No. 13 "All I Want To Do" (Mercury)

TOP TEN MOVIES

1. WALL-E (G) animated
2. Wanted (R) James McAvoy, Morgan Freeman
3. Get Smart (PG-13) Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
4. Kung Fu Panda (PG) animated
5. The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
6. The Love Guru (PG-13) Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
7. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
8. The Happening (R) Mark



Katy Perry

- Wahlberg, Zooey Deschanel
9. Sex and the City (R) Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
10. You Don't Mess with the Zohan (PG-13) Adam Sandler, John Turturro

TOP 10 VIDEO RENTALS

1. The Bucket List (PG-13) Jack Nicholson (Warner)
2. Jumper (PG-13) Hayden Christensen (20th Century Fox)
3. Semi Pro (R) Will Ferrell (New Line)
4. Rambo (R) Sylvester Stallone (Lionsgate)
5. National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets (PG) Nicolas Cage (Disney)
6. The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) Natalie Portman (Sony Pictures)
7. The Eye (PG-13) Jessica Alba (Lionsgate)
8. Meet the Spartans (PG-13) Sean Maguire (Fox)
9. Witless Protection (PG-13) Larry the Cable Guy (Lionsgate)

10. Mad Money (PG-13) Diane Keaton (Starz/Anchor Bay)

TOP 10 DVD SALES

1. The Bucket List (PG-13) (Warner)
2. Jumper (PG-13) (20th Century Fox)
3. National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets (PG) (Disney)
4. John Adams (NR) (HBO)
5. The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) (Sony Pictures)
6. Semi-Pro (R) (New Line)
7. Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (PG) (Paramount)
8. Indiana Jones: The Adventure Collection (NR) (Paramount)
9. Rambo (R) (Weinstein)
10. Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade ((PG-13) (Paramount)

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AP, TV organizations pull questioned video

NEW YORK (AP)—The Associated Press and video services operated by CBS and NBC have pulled video allegedly taken of a tornado in Nebraska last weekend after questions were raised about its authenticity.

A tornado chaser has claimed that the video was a doctored version of pictures he had taken of a twister that touched down four years ago in Rock, Kan.

The AP paid another storm chaser, Andy Fabel, \$295 for footage of a tornado that briefly touched down Saturday afternoon near Valentine, Neb. The video was sent Sunday to nearly 2,000 Web sites that subscribe to the AP's Online Video Network, and more than 60 large digital customers that buy AP's online content individually.

Yet on Tuesday, a person who asked that his name not be used contacted the AP and said the supposed Nebraska footage

was really video he had taken four years ago. The image was "flipped" to make it seem the tornado was pointed in another direction, and the action sped up. The Nebraska images add power lines and subtract trees that were in the Kansas pictures.

Upon seeing the video evidence, the AP eliminated Fabel's video from the Online Video Network late Tuesday and contacted its other customers to urge them not to use it, said Kevin Roach, the AP's acting head of domestic broadcast news operations.

"We never want to mislead people," Roach said. "Based on evidence provided to us, we believe that the video was not authentic."

Fabel did not immediately return an e-mail and message left on his cell phone by the AP. Officials with NBC News Channel and CBS News Path

said they had talked to Fabel and he had insisted his pictures were authentic.

Both the NBC and CBS services provide video to the network's affiliates. Both had purchased Fabel's video and sent it out, then took it off their servers on Tuesday after suspicions were raised about its authenticity, representatives said.

"There was enough evidence for us to make it suspect," said Sharon Houston, an executive producer with NBC News Channel.

The AP has purchased tornado video from Fabel three times before, Roach said.



This image made from a manipulated video shows what is purported to be a twister that briefly touched down Saturday afternoon July 5, 2008 near Valentine, Neb.

LA County Museum of Art obtains Oceanic collection

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art has acquired an encyclopedic collection of sculptures and artifacts from Polynesia, Melanesia and other Oceanic cultures, museum officials said Wednesday.

The 46-piece collection of Oceanic art, purchased by museum trustees, includes an 18th century Hawaiian drum collected by Capt. James Cook in 1778 and a dance paddle of smooth sculpted wood from Easter Island, LACMA chief executive Michael Govan said.

"It's really a very comprehensive collection in terms of representation across the Pacific Islands," Govan said. "Each one is a masterpiece."

The collection was acquired from the foundation of Taylor, Mich.-based cabinetry company Masco Corp.

Masco culled the items in the early 1990s from the collection of a former Australian government officer who began assembling Oceanic art in the 1950s while serving in Papua New Guinea, said Michael Kan, who picked out the artworks for the foundation as a curator at the Detroit Institute of Art.

Govan declined to reveal the

collection's purchase price, but the museum announced that it was partly financed with a \$5 million challenge grant from the charitable foundation started by real estate developer Eli Broad and his wife, Edythe. Other LACMA trustees paid for the balance.

If the Broads' contribution represented half the total purchase price—a typical arrangement for a challenge grant—the \$10 million price tag would be a bargain, Kan said. He said many of the items are unique and that it would be nearly impossible to assemble such a collection from scratch.

"It's doubtful even if you had unlimited funds that you could put it together again," he said.

LACMA plans to begin exhibiting the collection in early 2009, Govan said. It will be placed among the museum's modern art collection to illustrate the influence of Oceanic art on Dada and other modern art movements, he said.

Govan said the acquisition also represents an effort to increase the museum's coverage of tribal arts and other artworks from non-Western regions.

"It seemed a large omission for a museum staring at the Pacific Ocean not to have an Oceanic collection," he said.

Koch giving \$100M to Lincoln Center

NEW YORK (AP)—Billionaire oil baron David Koch has pledged \$100 million to renovate the New York State Theater at Lincoln Center.

The theater, home to City Opera and the New York City Ballet, will be renamed the David H. Koch Theater.


Koch (COKE) has an estimated net worth of \$17 billion and ranks 10th on Forbes' list of

richest Americans.

He will donate the money over 10 years.

Koch is a board member of Koch Industries, based in Wichita, Kan. The company was founded in 1927 by his father, Fred, with a fleet of oil-delivery trucks.

The New York Times says the gift represents the largest private capital donation in Lincoln Center's history.



Called to Eternal Life

Ana Songao Hocog

July 13, 1932 – July 6, 2008

Our Heavenly Father welcomed Ana to her eternal life on Sunday, July 6, 2008 at the age of 76 years at Guam Memorial Hospital. Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica (Guam), Blessed Diego San Vitores Church (Guam), Saint Jude Church (Saipan), and San Isidro Church at 7:00 p.m. (Rota).

At the eternal gates of our Heavenly Father, Ana now joins her **parents**: Pedro Maratita Hocog and Escolastica Songsong Songao and her **brothers/sister/brothers-in-law**: Ignacio Songao Hocog, Domingo Quintanilla, Rosa Hocog Indalecio, Lucio Masga Manglona and David Aldan Indalecio, and also her **nieces and nephews**: Edward Hocog, Sabina Manglona Taisacan, Luis Hocog Manglona, and Raymond Hocog.

Ana's compassion and her wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her **children, their spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren**: **Dr. Rita Hocog Inos** & Cristobal Inos (Denise Lorraine Hocog Inos, Elisabeth Inos Gardner, Ana Blossom Hocog Inos), **Senator Paterno Hocog** & Elizabeth Mendiola (Anginette Sasakura Mendiola-Bamba & John Anthony Bamba, Joshua Alfred Mendiola-Bamba, John Anthony Mundo-Bamba Jr, Carrie Lynn Ayuyu Hocog & Vito Mesngon Ulloa Jr., Andrei Mendiola & Elinor Amon, Elenecca Dee Amon Mendiola, Paterno Jose Ayuyu Hocog, Patty Beth Mendiola Hocog, Paterno Jr. Mendiola Hocog), **Manuel Hocog, Pedro Hocog** & Elizabeth Barcinas (Abel Barcinas Hocog, Flavian Barcinas Hocog, Lucille Barcinas Hocog, Peter Anthony Barcinas Hocog), **Angel Hocog, Elizabeth Hocog Apatang** & Joseph Apatang (Jolynn Hocog Apatang), and **Edward Hocog** & Ruby Hocog (Edward Jr. Manglona Hocog, Domingo Manglona Hocog, Takara Mendiola Santos, Angieanna Manglona Hocog, Esco Ann Dela Cruz Hocog, Kiana Dela Cruz Hocog), and her aide, **Moji**.

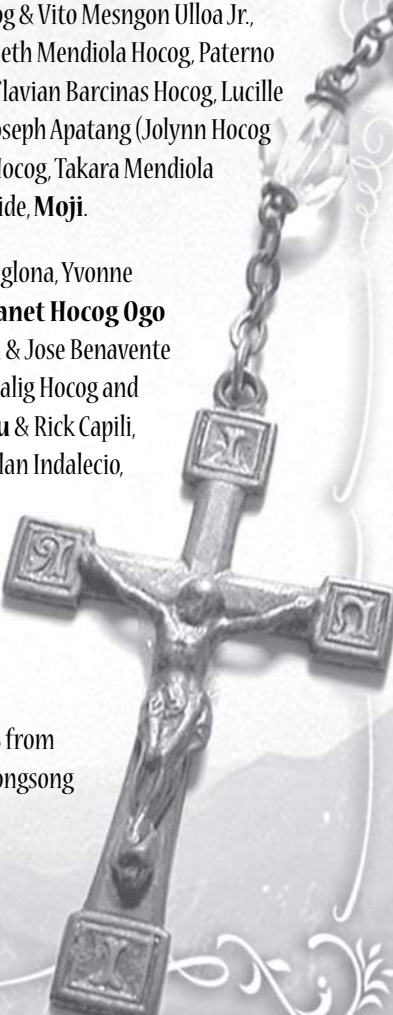
Ana is additionally survived by her **sister**, Milagro H. Manglona and her **children**: Francisco Manglona, Yvonne Manglona, Trisha Hocog and **sister-in-law** Dolores Borja Hocog and her **children**: Alice Atalig, **Janet Hocog Ogo** & Pedro Ogo, **Congressman Victor Borja Hocog** & Villia Mendiola Hocog, **Lydia Hocog Aldan** & Jose Benavente Aldan, **Dr. Paterno (Loreto) Hocog** & Matilde Castro Hocog, **Vianney Borja Hocog** & Angie Atalig Hocog and her **nieces and nephews**: **Martina Indalecio Bio** & Raymond Bio, **Carmen Indalecio Ayuyu** & Rick Capili, **Pedro Hocog Indalecio** & Maria Castro Indalecio, **William Hocog Indalecio** & Josephine Sablan Indalecio, **Anthony Hocog Indalecio** & Wimcy Orat, and **Maria Indalecio Banca** & Mario Banca.

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends will also miss her.

Viewing will be held at Ada's Funeral Home in Sinajana, Guam on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Last respects for Ana will be held at San Francisco de Borja Church (Rota) on Monday, July 14, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. followed by mass of Christian burial at San Antonio San Jose Cemetary in Songsong Village (Rota).

Si Yu'us Maase ginen I famagu'ña yan I familian Maratita, Songao, Hocog yan Inos.



'Clone Wars' orbits Hollywood for Aug. 10 premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Lucas is revisiting familiar space in the heart of Hollywood to unveil his new "Star Wars" adventure.

The animated tale "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" will have its world premiere at the Egyptian Theatre along Hollywood Boulevard on Aug. 10, five days before it opens in theaters. Lucasfilm announced the premiere Wednesday.

Proceeds from the premiere will benefit the American Cinematheque, a film organization based at the Egyptian, which opened in 1922. The Egyptian was one of two Los Angeles theaters where the first "Star Wars" sequel, "The Empire Strikes Back," played during its extended run in 1980.

Tickets for the 4 p.m. pre-

miere will be on sale exclusively to American Cinematheque until July 23 and will then be available to the general public.

"Few cinemas have had the opportunity to host a premiere of a 'Star Wars' movie, and we are tremendously excited that the historic Egyptian will soon be one of them," said Barbara Smith, director of the American Cinematheque.

"The Clone Wars" will be followed by an animated TV series of the same name debuting this fall on the Cartoon Network and TNT.

The movie and TV show are set between the action of the second and third chapters of Lucas' prequel trilogy, "Attack of the Clones" and "Revenge of the Sith."

The film centers on a galactic civil war, with Jedi knight Anakin Skywalker - the future villain Darth Vader - embarking on a mission that pits him and his apprentice against crime boss Jabba the Hutt.

The voice cast includes some veteran "Star Wars" performers, including Samuel L. Jackson as Mace Windu, Christopher Lee as Count Dooku and Anthony Daniels as C-3PO.

Among other key voice cast members are Matt Lander as Anakin, Ashley Eckstein as his apprentice Ahsoka Tano and James Arnold Taylor as Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Lucas served as executive producer on "The Clone Wars" movie, which was directed by Dave Filoni.

August deadline set for SAG contract

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The major Hollywood studios have told the Screen Actors Guild that if the union does not accept its final contract offer by Aug. 15 any proposed wage increases would not be retroactive, a person with knowledge of unreleased details of the offer said Wednesday.

The producers threw down that gauntlet in their final offer, which they said included \$250 million in additional compensation over three years, said the person, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and requested anonymity.

If the producers' deadline passes before the union ratifies a contract, that means the actors could lose more than \$200,000 a day in increases dating to July 1, the day the new contract would take effect.

The two sides appear headed toward an impasse in their contract talks. Producers have released only general descriptions on their offer.

Scott Witlin, an entertainment lawyer who has represented television networks in the past, said he was told "members would start losing pay increases they would get if they don't ratify" by the deadline.

Norman Samnick, a lawyer who has represented the studios in talks with actors and also was told of the deadline, said such a clause was not unusual when negotiations extend beyond the

end of a contract.

"The companies may use that as a point of negotiation," Samnick said.

A guild spokeswoman declined to comment.

The studios, represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, plan to meet with the guild Thursday afternoon to discuss their final offer.

On Tuesday, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, a smaller actors union with 70,000 members, said it had ratified a three-year deal retroactive to July 1.

The Screen Actors Guild had campaigned hard against the AFTRA deal and claimed that if members approved it that would undermine SAG's ongoing talks.

The guild, which represents 120,000 actors in movies, TV and other media, said late Tuesday that its work at the bargaining table will continue, despite the ratification of the smaller union's deal.

The guild represents the vast majority of work in prime-time TV and movies. Any work stoppage by its members could throw the industry into turmoil, even if AFTRA members continue working.

"We will continue to address the issues of importance to actors that AFTRA left on the table," SAG President Alan Rosenberg said in a statement

Tuesday. "We remain committed to achieving a fair contract for SAG actors."

The guild has not called for a strike authorization vote.

In addition to the terms AFTRA approved, the guild said it is seeking further increases in compensation for DVD sales and Internet content and additional terms covering actors who must endorse products in scripted scenes.

But the producers' chief negotiator, J. Nicholas Counter III, said in a letter to California's state Legislature Wednesday that the alliance had presented its "last and best and final" offer to the guild.

The producers' stance left open the possibility they could declare talks were at an impasse. If confirmed by the National Labor Relations Board, the declaration would allow them to impose certain clauses of their offer on the guild, said Witlin and Samnick, the two industry lawyers.

But they might not because most changes between the old contract and the new offer favor the guild, Witlin said.

"Most of what's in the package are terms that are more beneficial to the performers than what currently exists," Witlin said. "I can't imagine they would actually implement the wage increases. That's just giving away money without getting an agreement."

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NOW SHOWING



Hellboy II

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 10:00
 Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15

Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
 Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated R

Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. — Jason Buchanan, *All Movie Guide*



Journey To The Center Of The Earth

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
 Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10

Brendan Fraser, Anita Briem, Josh Hutcherson
 Adventure, Fantasy, Action • Rated PG

Synopsis

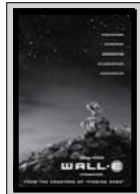
Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.



Meet Dave

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20 7:20 9:35
 Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20 7:20

Eddie Murphy, Elizabeth Banks
 Sci-Fi Comedy • Rated PG



Wall-E

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:05 9:40
 Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:05

Wall-E as played by Tracy McGrady
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated G



Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
 Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron
 Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13



Incredible Hulk

Fri & Sat 7:00 9:55
 Sun thru Thurs 7:30

Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
 Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



Wanted

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:50
 Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:25

James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
 Action • Rated R



Kung Fu Panda

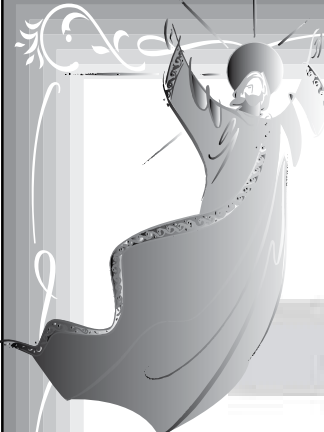
Fri & Sat 1:05 4:20
 Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:20

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
 Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

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First Death Anniversary

We, the family, invite our relatives & friends to join us for prayers and support as we celebrate the 1st Death Anniversary of our beloved


Raymond Anthony S. Delos Santos

Daily Mass will be offered starting July 7 to July 15 at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Church.

Please join us in prayers. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Maase
 Thank You
 Salamat Po

From:
 Wife, Son
 and Family



Jamie Lynn Spears poses with baby for mag cover

NEW YORK (AP)—Weeks after giving birth to daughter Maddie Briann, Jamie Lynn Spears is showing off the newborn, sharing memories of a “perfect” delivery and longing to be a Southern soccer mom.

Spears and fiancé Casey Aldridge welcomed Maddie at a hospital in McComb, Miss., on June 19. The younger sister of Britney Spears poses with her on the cover of OK! magazine - as expected, given the fact that Spears announced her pregnancy through an article in OK! and reportedly was to receive a large payday for exclusive pictures of the baby.

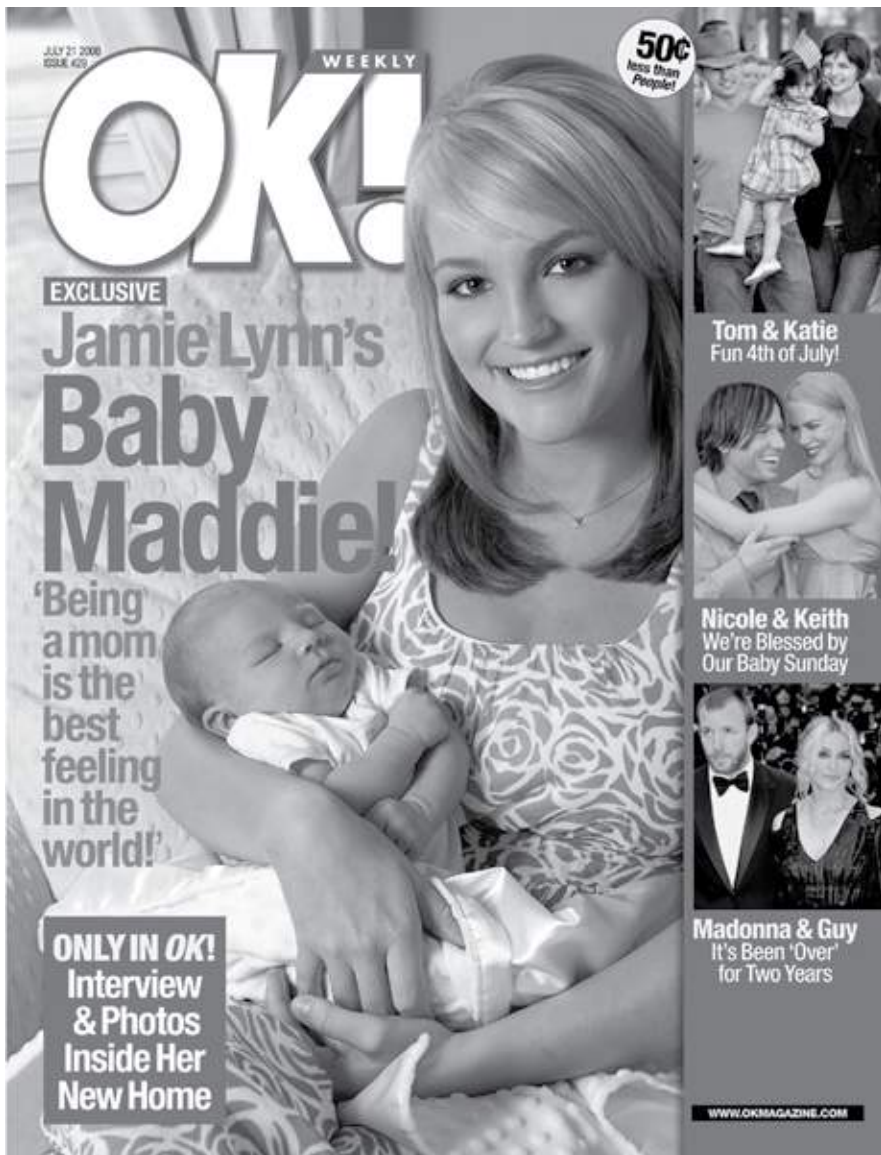
The photos were taken at the pair’s Mississippi home. The magazine does not comment on the terms of its deals with celebrities.

In an interview with OK!, the 17-year-old Jamie Lynn said she had been nervous about giving birth “but it all fell into place. I was right on schedule. I had a perfect pregnancy and a perfect delivery. I was very blessed.”

Jamie Lynn said watching Aldridge, a pipe-layer from Liberty, Miss., hold Maddie for the first time “was the coolest thing. ... He was so happy, and that made me the happiest person alive.”

Jamie Lynn’s immediate family - including big sister Britney - were there for the birth, though Aldridge was the only one allowed in the delivery room.

“It was such a big day,” she said. “And being able to have your sister there, your whole family there, meant



In this image released by OK!, magazine Jamie Lynn Spears is shown on the cover of OK! with her daughter Maddie Briann. AP

a lot. Everybody flew in to celebrate.”

Lynne Spears, already grandmother to Britney’s young sons, told the magazine: “You never remember how little they are, and then you hold them. I purred like a kitten, and I remember saying, ‘Jamie Lynn, she’s so beautiful.’”

Jamie Lynn thinks Maddie takes after daddy.

“As much as I’d like her to look like me—I just carried her for nine months—she looks like Casey! He reminds me of it every day,” she said.

Jamie Lynn said Maddie sleeps in a bassinet by the couple’s bed because she’s “not ready to put her (in the nursery) all the way across the house.”

She said Lynne Spears is a hands-on grandma.

“Mama has been here a bunch,” she said. “She wants to see the baby all the time. She told me the doctors are always going to be real strict and tell you, ‘Don’t do this and don’t do that.’ Just follow your instincts. You’re the mother and you know what your baby needs. That’s what I’ve done and it seems to have worked.”

Jamie Lynn, who recently starred on the Nickelodeon sitcom “Zoey 101,” said she plans to raise Maddie down South where “the focus is family.”

“I would love being the soccer mom,” she said. “They don’t have soccer down here, but I would love being the softball mom driving the kids around.”

Spike Lee set to film Stew’s ‘Passing Strange’

NEW YORK (AP)—Spike Lee will film “Passing Strange,” Stew’s rock musical journey of self-discovery, during performances next week at Broadway’s Belasco Theatre, it was announced Wednesday.

The movie, budgeted at about \$2 million, will be shot July 19 at both the matinee and evening performances, Steve Klein, the film’s producer, said Wednesday at a news conference. The stage production will also be filmed at two other times in the theater without audiences present.

“Musicians are the greatest artists on this Earth,” said Lee, a big fan of the musical since seeing it at the Public Theater last year. “What we are really doing is really a hybrid. We are filming the play.”

Lee, director of such films as “Do the Right Thing,” “Malcolm X” and “She’s Gotta Have It,” said there would be surprises in the film but declined to amplify. “Then it wouldn’t be a surprise,” he said.

Klein, also one of the producers of the Broadway production, said a distribution deal for the movie had not been set, either for release as a feature film or for showing on a premium cable channel.

“Passing Strange,” written by Stew and his longtime collaborator Heidi Rodewald, was workshopped at the Sundance Institute in Utah and was done at Berkeley Rep in California before coming to off-Broadway in 2007. The show opened on Broadway in February to enthusiastic reviews.

Ryan Gosling as Darfur activist and humble star

By **AMY ARGETSINGER** and **ROXANNE ROBERTS**
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—How to avoid being a pompous celebrity activist type? Follow the lead of Ryan Gosling. Headlining a panel here Tuesday with the title of “Confronting Genocide and Mass Atrocities,” the young Oscar nominee took an abashed, self-deprecating approach.

“For some reason, there’s an interest in what people who do what I do have to say,” the actor murmured. “I don’t particularly have that much to say but I do have these experiences that I can relay. I’m honored to have these experiences.”

(Aw, shucks. We’re not going to be able to make fun of this one.)

The 27-year-old Gosling was Hollywood’s representative to this year’s Campus Progress National Conference, a confab of about 300 left-leaning college activists at the Omni Shoreham. His topic: Darfur. Gosling sounded sheepish, reports our colleague Marissa Newhall, describing the way the children he met on a visit to refugee camps stared at him: “Not like I was just some actor from Hollywood who was there to have an experience. They looked at me like I was somebody who could really do something. And I didn’t consider myself in that way.”

He added: “I still can see the way they looked at me.”

Gosling—close-cropped hair, cargo-style shirt, navy pants, combat boots, gold watch—spoke softly and deferred to his fellow panelists, ENOUGH Project Co-chairman John Prendergast and African activists Betty Bigombe and Omer Ismail, playing interviewer and letting them tell the stories. The four had obviously spent much time together, evidenced by the convivial banter. The actor playfully flirted with Bigombe, a senior fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, praising her beauty until she in return joked how handsome he was.

“I’m single, by the way,” Gosling noted, drawing whistles and hoots from the college gals. “Do what you want with that.”

Former Revlon model Dorian Leigh dies

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dorian Leigh, an early supermodel who made Revlon’s 1950s “Fire and Ice” cosmetics line famous, has died at age 91.

Leigh, who went on to run her own modeling agency and open a restaurant in France, died Monday at a nursing home in Falls Church, Va., according to her eldest son, T.L. Hawkins of McLean, Va.

Leigh began her modeling career at a major fashion agency run by Harry Conover. She appeared on the cover of numerous magazines, including Look, McCall’s and Harper’s Bazaar, and worked with renowned photographers including Louise Dahl-Wolfe and Irving Penn.

She was among the first models who signed with Ford Agency. In 1997, founder Eileen Ford told the The Free Lance-Star in Virginia that Leigh was “truly the best model of our time.”

“She instinctively knew what every photographer wanted, and she came alive just at the moment the shutter clicked,” Ford said.

Leigh helped Revlon’s “Fire and Ice” and “Cherries in the Snow” lipstick and nail polish campaigns take off in the 1950s with poses shot by Richard Avedon.

Her son recalls one memorable image featuring the curvy, brunette model looking into the camera with her striking blue eyes. Her mouth is slightly open, showing off the Revlon lipstick that became popular. At 5-foot-5, she’s standing in high heels, with one hand propped on her hip and the other close to her cheek.

“It was a fantastic shot,” Hawkins said. “It was a rhinestone dress that went all the way down the floor.”

Leigh brought her younger sister, Suzy Parker, into the industry. Parker went on to become a prominent supermodel.

Hawkins said Leigh had at least five husbands, the first of whom was his father, Marshall Hawk-



ins. Leigh claimed to have married another man with whom she had a son, but Hawkins said it’s unclear whether they actually tied the knot. A son and daughter predeceased Leigh. She is survived by Hawkins and two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Leigh was born April 23, 1917, in San Antonio, Texas, the eldest of four daughters. Before modeling, she worked at a New Jersey company that did mechanical design for the military.

After Leigh left modeling in the 1960s, she started her own fashion modeling agency in Paris, among the first in France.

After divorcing her last husband, Leigh devoted herself to cooking. She attended the Le Cordon Bleu cooking school in Paris and opened a restaurant south of Paris. In the 1970s, she worked with Martha Stewart, developing recipes and publishing cookbooks, according to her son.

In late life, Leigh dabbled in another field: “She was a rabid Democrat, very much into the politics,” Hawkins said. She joined a local Democratic group in the early 1990s, while living in a conservative enclave in Fredericksburg, Va.

Throughout her life, Leigh savored attention and love to entertain. Hawkins said his mother enjoyed having all eyes turn her way when she walked into a room. She would arrive deliberately late to gatherings to ensure a grand entrance.

“She was like a diva,” Hawkins said. “It was just remarkable. It was just an aura, she had an aura.”

In this 1997 file photo, Dorian Leigh is shown. AP

Family purse strings are no longer in husband's hands

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are going through a financial situation which many families seem to face these days, where the wife has to take care of the family's finances.

Yesterday my husband asked me to give him some money. Of course I told him I would give it to him, but I wanted to know what he needed it for because I had given him enough a week ago that should have gotten him through a minimum of three weeks.

My husband became angry and told me to "forget the money," that he would manage one way or another. I tried explaining to him that if the situation was the other way around, he would have wanted to know what I needed the money for and that I was only concerned, but he's still mad at me. I apologized, but he's still hurt.

Was it wrong to ask him what he needed the money for?

WORRIED WIFE IN NIGERIA

DEAR WORRIED WIFE: Your question was probably spontaneous, and certainly to the point. More than what happened to the money, your husband's defensive reaction is cause for concern. If he was proud of where the money went, he would have answered the question.

However, please consider that another reason he may have overreacted is that he feels it should be his place to be the breadwinner—and the fact that you are is a blow to his ego.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a freshman in college and having one of the best times of my life. I have made a lot of good friends. My only problem is I don't have a boyfriend. It's not that I feel I can't exist without one. I have been perfectly content as a single girl. But I'm 18 now, and still haven't kissed a guy.

One by one, each of my friends has found someone. I know a lot of guys through activities I'm involved in, or my classes, but I am terrified of initiating something. I really need them to make the first move. I'm worried that no one will be interested in me because I'm a bit overweight and I'm self-conscious about it.

Abby, can you think of anything I could do to change my situation?

WANTING A GUY AT CORNELL

DEAR WANTING A GUY: Perhaps. May I suggest an extra-curricular activity for you? It's one that will give you a chance to meet and mingle with new people. Join a gym. It's healthy, it's fun, and it's a non-threatening way to meet all sorts of people with different interests. It's also an effective way to lose weight, tone up and gain self-confidence. Give it a try and let me hear from you in six months. I'll bet by then your problem will have resolved itself.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am an 11-year-old girl with a problem. My mom is dating a really cool guy. He's nice and remembers our birthdays and stuff like that, but I don't like him that much. I have talked to my mom and my school counselor about it. What do you suppose I should do now?

ISSUES WITH MOM'S B.F.

DEAR ISSUES: Just because your mother likes him does not mean that you have to like him "that much." He is your mother's friend. Therefore, you should treat him with the same respect and consideration that you would want your mother to treat one of YOUR friends.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Dear Abby

Hospital: 'Impossible' to see inside Jolie's room

PARIS (AP)—The hospital where Angelina Jolie will give birth says it has covered the windows of her room with a special material to prevent paparazzi from taking pictures of the actress and her partner, Brad Pitt.

The Lenval hospital in Nice in southern France said Wednesday that photos that claim to show Jolie and Pitt in her room are fakes that have been manipulated or show other patients.

In a statement, the hospital said it is "totally impossible" to see inside the room from the outside due to a material on the windows that camera lenses cannot see through.

The statement wasn't specific but hospital spokeswoman Nadine Bauer said she believed the material was a type of film. She said it was put on especially for Jolie.

"So any pictures released are either posed fakes set up by paparazzi or they are pictures of other patients," the hospital said. "We hope this is clearly understood out of respect for all



Members of the media and onlookers surround a vehicle usually used by U.S. actor Brad Pitt as it leaves the Lenval Hospital in Nice, southern France, Saturday, July 5, 2008. AP

patients in this clinic."

Jolie is expecting twins. She has been resting and is being monitored by doctors in the seaside hospital ahead of the birth.

At a brief news conference last week, Jolie's obstetrician said the 33-year-old actress was doing fine. Her stay could be a relatively long one. The doctor,

Michel Sussmann, said Jolie would remain in the hospital until the babies are delivered and that could be "in the weeks to come."

Christie Brinkley's NY divorce trial on hold

CENTRALISLIP, N.Y. (AP)—Christy Brinkley's Long Island divorce trial has been put on hold - and the model says she's praying for a settlement.

Lawyers declined to comment on the record Wednesday.

However, Brinkley was asked while leaving the courthouse if a settlement is in the works. She pressed her palms together as in prayer and replied: "It's what I hope and pray for."

The former Sports Illustrated

model was married to architect Peter Cook for a decade before his affair with a teenager vaulted their troubles into the public light in 2006.

The trial has focused on the affair and Cook's online sex

activities. He has apologized for both.

The primary issue has been custody of their children, ages 10 and 13. The dispute also includes properties Cook helped Brinkley buy in the Hamptons.

A husband explores 'Life in a Marital Institution'

NEW YORK (AP)—James Braly's one-man show, "Life in a Marital Institution," seems on the surface to be about his marriage and his wife, Susan - although it's really all about him. Braly seems to know that, though, which makes his storytelling about the "tantric conflict" between him and Susan even funnier, as he often laughs along with the audience.

For instance, when Braly claims that his wife is still

breast-feeding their two sons, ages 4 and 6, his main concern is that, with the boys also sharing their parents' bed, there "aren't enough breasts to go around."

Braly, who also wrote his monologue, is charming, personable and relaxed onstage. He juxtaposes fast-paced, amusing stories about his 20-plus years in love and in battle with Susan, whom he portrays as slightly eccentric, with poignant tales of his dying sister from the hospice bed-

side, where his family interactions are also mined for humor.

Director Hal Brooks has cleverly signaled these alternate scenes by a minimal lighting change: cold lighting signifies the hospice, then warms to amber tones when Braly returns to the marital front lines.

The hourlong monologue is peppered with witty explanations of relationship compromises and pitfalls, including Braly's and Susan's "unspoken mutual decay

contract," and their hot, alleged "post-betrayal sex."

Having been eventually dismissed by their couples therapist because she feels that she can't possibly help them, they vow to forge on ahead together - as long as truces based on understanding and forgiveness can hold out on both sides.

Braly's warmhearted performance can be enjoyed at off-Broadway's Soho Playhouse through Aug. 31.

Report: CBS News' Logan talks about her baby drama

NEW YORK (AP) -- Lara Logan, the chief foreign affairs correspondent for CBS News, tells The Washington Post she is pregnant, and the father is a married federal contractor whom she met while stationed in Iraq.

Logan's relationship with Joseph Burkett - who's in the midst of a divorce from wife Kimberly, with whom he has a 3-year-old daughter - has made media headlines, including the front page of the New York Post.

Logan is going through a divorce from estranged husband Jason Siemon, a Chicago-based energy lobbyist whom she married in 1998.

"Nobody likes to read about themselves like that, especially the way it's been sensationalized," Logan, 37, told The Washington Post. "I hated it.

But I'm just going to rise above it and keep going."

Logan, whose pregnancy was unplanned, told the newspaper her due date is in January, and she's "looking forward to being a mom."

Logan - a South Africa native who began dating Burkett following her November breakup with CNN correspondent Michael Ware - said she and Burkett plan to marry eventually.

Logan's publicist, Tom Keaney, declined to comment.

The reporter - known for her intrepid war coverage - was promoted to CBS' chief foreign affairs correspondent last month, and is based in Washington.

Logan, a contributor to "60 Minutes," has won numerous reporting accolades, including an Emmy and Overseas Press Club Award.

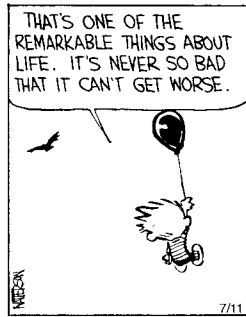
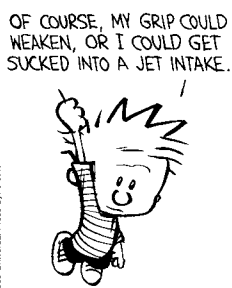
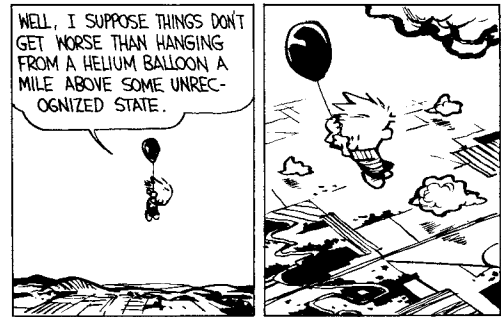


COLLABORATION

In this Jan. 24, 2004 file photo, Britney Spears, left, gives an award to U.S. singer Madonna, right, during the NRJ awards ceremony in Cannes, France. Madonna has recruited Britney Spears for a virtual appearance on her upcoming Sticky & Sweet tour.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



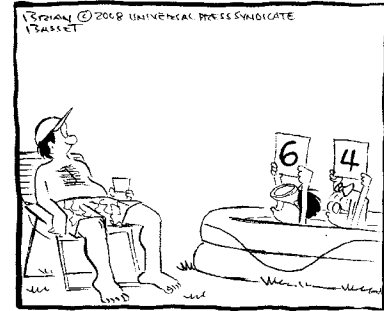
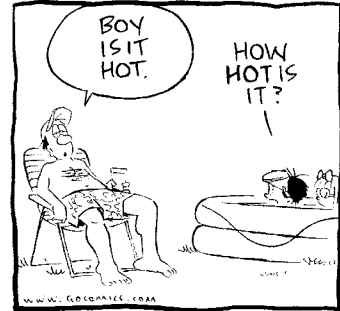
Garfield®

By Bill Waterson



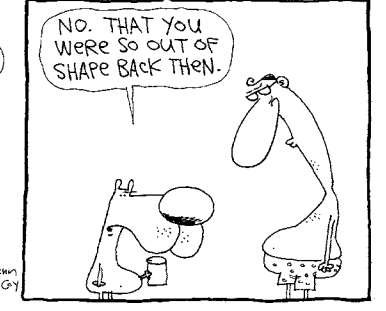
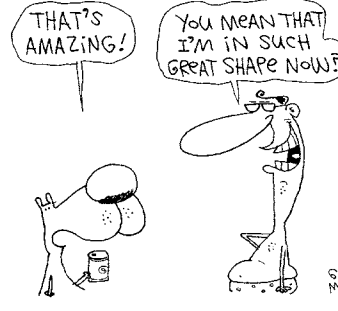
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



The Duplex

By Bryan Basset



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tit-for — health? **45** Soaring channel? **47** Farm female **48** Paper-back book **52** Weir **53** Bird-related **54** Pitching stat **55** Infuriation **56** Hiawa-tha's craft **57** 1/6 fl. oz. = 1 — **58** Lair

DOWN

1 Rhino's' cousin **2** Old-time market-place **3** November stone **4** Employer **5** Walloped **6** Lacry-mose one **7** Big bag **8** Country-club staffer **9** Gun the engine **10** Compass pt. **11** Listening device **17** Chum, out west **21** Of a region **23** House-paint ingred-ient **24** Prior to **25** Ostrich's kin **26** Eminem's genre **28** Realty parcel **30** Dinner for Dobbin **31** Summer-time abbr. **32** Wall Streeter's deg. **33** Debtor's letters **36** Barn's neighbor **37** Post-pones **40** Break a Command-ment **42** Started over **43** Cognizant **44** Red Sea nation **45** Dermatol-ogy subject **46** Snare **48** Pouch **49** Eggs **50** Shark part **51** The way, in China

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	E	G	B	A	I	T	T	H	E	A
P	R	O	U	L	N	A	H	E	L	P
H	E	A	D	L	I	N	E	A	S	E
L	O	G	S	L	I	P	P	E	D	
F	A	L	T	E	R	S	R	I		
A	N	T	S	A	G	E	T	H	O	S
L	O	N	G	N	A	G	S	A	R	I
K	N	E	L	T	Y	A	W	R	A	T
I	S	M	P	A	D	D	L	E		
S	C	A	M	P	E	R	G	E	L	
N	O	R	M	L	I	F	E	L	I	N
A	L	E	E	O	D	O	R	N	O	W
P	E	A	R	N	E	B	S	E	V	E

Yesterday's answer 7-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Marie Serneholt, 25; Lisa Rinna, 45; Suzanne Vega, 49; Mark Lester, 50

Happy Birthday: The only thing holding you back this year is your reluctance to accept and move forward with change. Love and socializing will go hand-in-hand, bringing you closer to being the outgoing person who is hiding behind a crusty shell. Give into your whims — take action when something moves you and, most of all, be true to yourself. Your numbers are 2, 12, 19, 28, 34, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Talk to people you live with or a partner about your latest thoughts, but be agreeable and willing to compromise. Don't be too pushy. Over-indulgence in any way will not be the answer to your worries. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Good things come to those who wait, compromise and work alongside others. You will be able to mix work and pleasure. Love is on the rise and inviting people over to your place is a good way to make a lasting impression. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've got great creative ideas but, before you try to get others to do the work, make sure the projects are sound. Once you've ironed out the little kinks, everyone will be happy to give you the push and encouragement you need to carry on. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Nothing should stand between you and what you want. Let your imagination lead the way and drum up whatever interest you can in something you feel is a feasible project. Socializing and

sharing your thoughts will help you secure support. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Using emotional tactics will not get you far. Secrets will be revealed so be upfront and honest about what you are doing. Get involved in a challenging physical activity. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Love is on the rise and pleasure trips and getting involved in enjoyable group activities will all lead to romance. Don't be afraid to make a commitment or change some plans that don't fit your lifestyle anymore. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be true to yourself and trust your decisions. Your creative ideas and imagination will not let you down. Prepare to dazzle someone who can afford to put money behind you. An emotional issue may leave you free to do as you please. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't trust anyone to do your job for you. Focus on being where you have to be to get the job done right. Love, romance and adventure can be combined if you plan a trip that includes business and a little intimacy with someone you adore. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone may try to get a point across that you really have to consider. Don't shut down because you are so intent on doing things your way. Listen to the voice of experience or that of an innocent bystander and you will be further ahead. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't believe everything you hear. A partnership will not be what it appears. Expect to be given false information regarding someone's credentials. Do your own research and you will prosper. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't trust your emotions to lead you in the right direction. You will be easily upset and must be willing to listen to the facts. Give your partner the benefit of a doubt and your friends and family a second chance. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Everything will start to go your way. Love, socializing, networking and financial gains are all looking good. Discuss investments, commitments and legal matters that you want to put to rest. Now is the time for change. *****

Birthday Baby: You are a lover and a chamer, original, playful and a crusader for the less fortunate. Professionally and personally you will always get the job done.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	9		3				1			
7										2
				7	2					
5			6			7				
		3	7		9	4				
		2		1						3
			4	5						
6										8
	1				8			6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	5	7	3	8	1	4	9
3	1	7	4	9	5	2	6	8
9	4	8	1	6	2	3	7	5
8	3	6	5	4	7	9	1	2
5	9	1	3	2	6	7	8	4
2	7	4	9	8	1	6	5	3
7	5	9	8	1	3	4	2	6
4	8	2	6	7	9	5	3	1
1	6	3	2	5	4	8	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/10

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SELF-HELP BOOKS

Solution: 6 letters

T	D	E	E	S	N	L	A	N	O	S	R	E	P	S
T	I	U	S	R	U	P	H	L	E	E	R	A	H	S
R	S	T	U	A	A	C	A	O	L	V	D	A	E	R
O	C	T	L	H	H	P	C	V	P	L	P	A	G	E
P	U	L	S	E	C	C	M	E	V	E	I	H	C	A
P	S	U	A	N	S	R	R	O	S	H	O	A	S	W
U	S	S	S	I	O	E	A	U	C	S	E	P	S	A
S	R	N	I	E	C	I	R	E	P	P	I	E	L	R
L	U	O	S	N	I	N	S	O	S	R	L	D	S	E
I	Y	C	H	N	S	R	A	I	T	E	E	I	R	N
S	T	L	V	T	E	P	O	N	C	S	R	U	O	E
T	L	E	P	F	U	P	I	T	I	E	K	G	T	S
S	N	A	E	P	E	A	I	R	S	F	D	O	C	S
T	H	R	O	N	A	O	E	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J
M	I	N	D	G	N	O	I	T	C	E	R	I	D	B

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7/11

Achieve, Apply, Author, Awareness, Bookstores, Compare, Consult, Decisions, Desire, Direction, Discuss, Doctors, Financial, Goals, Guide, Inspire, Invent, Journey, Lists, Love, Mind, Open, Page, Peace, People, Personal, Purchase, Pursuit, Read, Refer, Research, Selection, Shape, Share, Shelves, Soul, Stories, Success, Support, Titles, Trips, Turn

Yesterday's Answer: Fromage

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just \$4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate). Includes \$5 postage for the first book order, \$1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 4500 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free, 1-800-255-8734, ext. 6588. Sorry, no online orders for this special offer.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

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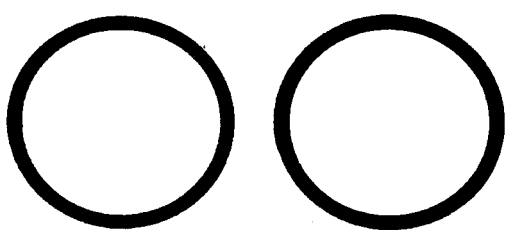
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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



76ers ink Brand to 5-year deal worth reported \$82M



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Elton Brand believed his career would end as an L.A. Story. Forced by a contract ultimatum Brand would not accept, the would-be movie mogul and two-time NBA All-Star instead opted to take his production east and see his name roll on the credits of Philadelphia's roster.

Brand and the 76ers made it official Wednesday on a five-year deal worth a reported \$82 million, a shrewd move that promptly turned the emerging franchise into Eastern Conference contenders.

"I'm prepared to do some big things this year," Brand said.

For that kind of commitment, Brand should be ready.

Last week, Brand opted out of his contract with the Clippers, but Los Angeles was expected to make a strong push to re-sign him. Instead, he spurned the Clippers once agent David Falk said he was offered a "take it or leave it" contract on June 30. The deal was nearly \$20 million less than what Brand signed for in Philadelphia.

"My intention was to try and work something out with the Clippers," Brand said.

Falk said the greater insult came when he was told that Clippers owner Donald Sterling said he would be happy with the 29-year-old Brand's decision either way.

Messages seeking comment left with the Clippers were not immediately returned.

Falk also said the Golden State Warriors offered more total money—about \$90 million—but Brand felt the 76ers were a better fit.

Sixers president Ed Stefanski was on the phone with Falk shortly after midnight on July 1—the first day teams could begin negotiating with free agents.

Philadelphia wanted to land a big man this summer and had Hawks restricted free agent forward Josh Smith in town last



Philadelphia 76ers General Manager Ed Stefanski, left, and Elton Brand, the latest member of the Philadelphia 76ers, hold up Brand's jersey during a news conference, Wednesday, July 9, 2008, in Philadelphia.

week for a visit, but he left without being presented with an offer sheet. Smith will look elsewhere, or possibly stay in Atlanta.

The 76ers entered the summer \$11 million under the salary cap, but even that wasn't enough to land a franchise-shifting free agent like Brand. Philadelphia was able to swing a deal with Minnesota that sent forward Rodney Carney and a future No. 1 pick to the Timberwolves as part of a trade that cleared an

additional \$2 million in salary cap space.

The trade allowed the Sixers to offer a starting salary in the \$14-million range. Brand had \$16.4 million left on deal he signed in 2003.

"All we kept saying was we needed an opportunity, and that opportunity came," Stefanski said.

Brand's arrival signals the Sixers are ready to become a threat to contend in the East. He should

immediately bolster the frontcourt, and his career numbers of 20.3 points and 10.2 rebounds over nine seasons make him one of only four active players to average a double-double.

However, Brand played in only eight games last season because of an Achilles' tendon injury. Brand said Wednesday night he was 100 percent and ready to go.

"I won't let anybody down," he said.

Brand was the No. 1 overall pick in the 1999 draft out of Duke and spent two seasons with the Bulls before he was traded to the Clippers. Brand had tried to leave Los Angeles once before as a restricted free agent. He signed an offer sheet with Miami, but returned to the Clippers once the deal was matched.

Brand also founded Gibraltar Films and served as co-producer on a movie that starred Christian Bale.

The Sixers had been pointing toward this summer since they traded 2001 NBA MVP Allen Iverson in 2006 and decided to rebuild. They started clearing contracts - notably last season's trade of Kyle Korver to Utah - to have enough cash under the cap to pursue a marquee free agent. Once Brand surprisingly rejected the Clippers, the 76ers had their man.

Brand joins a Sixers team that is no longer the lottery-bound loser it was a year ago. Andre Miller, Andre Iguodala, Samuel Dalembert and the blossoming Thaddeus Young turned the 76ers into a surprise playoff team, even stretching Detroit

to six games in a first-round series. Philadelphia coach Maurice Cheeks had his team playing hard every game and he earned an extension from Stefanski.

The Sixers got only 5.2 points out of last season's power forward, Reggie Evans.

"I feel even stronger and tougher once I've got Elton Brand behind me," Stefanski said. "I'd have to say, yes, we have closed the gap."

Their starting lineup now looks like this: Miller and Iguodala in the backcourt; Young,

Brand and Dalembert in the frontcourt. Willie Green, Lou Williams and Evans become the top reserves.

The Sixers played an up-tempo style in the second half of last season that helped turn their season around. Stefanski said Brand—even coming off an injury—fits in fine with their running game.

"This guy can run," Stefanski said. "This is the prototype power forward."

Now, Philadelphia has made a move that shows it not only expects to make the playoffs - it can be a contender. The Sixers still need a legitimate outside shooter to fill the role vacated by Korver.

"That's something we're definitely going to address," Stefanski said.

Stefanski has worked wonders since he left New Jersey and took over for the fired Billy King in early December. King entered this past season convinced he had management's backing on a three-year rebuilding plan that he believed would turn the Sixers into a contender in the Eastern Conference.

"So much for the three-year plan," quipped Peter Luukko, COO of Comcast-Spectacor, which owns the 76ers.

Brand's defection is another embarrassing blow for the Clippers. Baron Davis opted out of the final season of his contract with Golden State to become a free agent and is on the verge of signing a long-term deal with Los Angeles. The Clippers planned on Brand and Davis to lead them back to the playoffs.

Corey Maggette also was set to join Brand in leaving the Los Angeles Clippers for an offer with the Golden State Warriors.

Now, Davis looks to be stuck on another rebuilding Clippers roster. Brand appears to have moved on to a contender.

Brand also denied making any sort of verbal or handshake deal with Davis that he would return to the Clippers.

Trade to Raptors feels like 'rebirth' for Jermaine O'Neal

TORONTO (AP)—Frustrated by off-court distractions and on-court failures with the Indiana Pacers, Jermaine O'Neal said Wednesday he broke down and cried when he learned last month he was being traded to Toronto in a deal that sent guard T.J. Ford to Indiana.

At a news conference, O'Neal said the Pacers' struggles, beginning with the brawl against Detroit Pistons fans at Auburn Hills in November 2004, began to erode his enjoyment for the game.

"It's probably been one of the worst situations any pro team has been through," O'Neal said. "There are a lot more things that went on behind the scenes that kind of wore you down. It wore me down a bit mentally and I

started to not really enjoy playing as much as I used to love to play the game. When I got the call from my agent and he told me about the possibility of coming here, it was like a rebirth. Sometimes you lose that love and you need a move or something to get that fire back in you."

Also Wednesday, the Raptors officially announced the re-signing of restricted free agent guard Jose Calderon, whose emergence last season while Ford was injured allowed Toronto to acquire O'Neal.

General manager Bryan Colangelo said trading Ford "brings clarity to an issue that was somewhat of a distraction as (last) season wore on." Colangelo said the Raptors had three or four offers

for Ford, but felt O'Neal was too good to pass up.

"Of all the transactions that were contemplated in the so-called T.J. Ford sweepstakes, this deal was number one," Colangelo said.

Ford averaged 13.2 points and 7.2 assists in two seasons with Toronto.

Toronto also sent center Rasho Nesterovic, forward Maceo Baston and the draft rights to center Roy Hibbert to the Pacers for O'Neal and the draft rights to forward Nathan Jawai.

The teams agreed to the deal in principle before last month's draft, but it couldn't be officially announced until Wednesday.

A six-time All-Star, O'Neal averaged 18.6 points and 9.6

rebounds over eight seasons with Indiana. He'll pair with two-time All-Star Chris Bosh to give the Raptors one of the league's best inside tandems.

O'Neal called Bosh after the trade to reassure the five-year veteran that he's not interested in upstaging Bosh.

"This is Chris' team," O'Neal said. "I'm here to help him lead. He's been a centerpiece for quite some time and he's a hell of a talent. I'm not into whose team this is, I'm into success. I've been through some rough times over the past four years and to get this opportunity, it makes you want to do whatever is necessary for this team to be successful."

O'Neal missed 40 games last season because of lingering pain

from a torn ligament in his left knee that was surgically repaired the previous summer. After returning for the final nine games of last season and rehabbing the knee this offseason, O'Neal said he's back at full strength.

"I played on one leg for two-and-a-half years," O'Neal said. "I have no doubt in my mind that this is going to be a healthy year for me."

A first-round pick by Portland in 1996, O'Neal joined Indiana in 2000-01 and became a central part of the team that lost to Detroit in the Eastern Conference finals four seasons later.

The Pacers began the 2004-05 season hoping to reach the NBA finals, but the brawl in Detroit sent the

team into a tailspin.

"It got to the point where I was extremely miserable," O'Neal said. "Everything around me was falling apart. After (the brawl), I never saw the light of day again. It was all downhill after that."

More off-court woes followed when, in separate incidents, teammates Stephen Jackson and Jamaal Tinsley were involved in shootings.

"It was kind of mind-blowing a little bit, that these situations kept happening after what we'd been through the year before or a month before," O'Neal said. "We'd win a game and have one media person. We'd have a shooting and it would be like the NBA finals."

Abreu's 10th-inning double leads Yankees over Rays



NEW YORK (AP)—Bobby Abreu hit a game-winning

double off Grant Balfour in the 10th inning for the New York Yankees to cool off the Tampa Bay Rays with a 2-1 victory in the American League on Wednesday.

Derek Jeter scored twice and Jason Giambi singled in a run for the Yankees, who gave out 20,000 replica mustaches to fans to support the slugger's All-Star candidacy.

New York has won four straight, closing within 6 1/2 games of the surprising Rays, who lead the AL East division but have lost three in a row for the first time since June 5.

Jeter walked with one out against Balfour (2-1), who hadn't allowed a run in his previous 10 appearances. Abreu doubled to right-center as Jeter scored without a throw to the plate. It was Abreu's first game-ending hit with the Yankees.

Red Sox 18, Twins 5

At Boston, Dustin Pedroia hit a three-run double as Boston followed an overturned triple-play call with seven runs in the seventh inning to beat Minnesota and complete a three-game sweep.

Jacoby Ellsbury had a career-high four hits, and Manny Ramirez, Kevin Youkilis and Sean Casey had three apiece to help the Red Sox set season highs for hits (23) and runs.

In the seventh, a sliding Denard Span caught Jason Varitek's sinking liner to center, allowing the Twins to double off two runners for an 8-4-5 triple play. But the call was correctly reversed and irate Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire was ejected for arguing. Varitek was credited with an RBI single that gave the Red Sox an 8-5 lead.

Tigers 8, Indians 6

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning and Detroit rallied from an early six-run deficit to hand Cleveland its 10th straight loss.

The Tigers, who trailed 6-0 in the sixth and tied it with five in the seventh, won when Cabrera connected with one out for his third homer in two games.

Johnny Peralta hit an RBI double, Blake had a sacrifice fly and Choo Shin-soo singled home a run in the first for the Indians.

Blue Jays 9, Orioles 8

At Toronto, Alex Rios and David Eckstein both drove in two runs and A.J. Burnett won for the third time in four starts for Toronto, which had a seven-run fourth inning.

Eckstein had two doubles and Rios had two singles for the Blue Jays, whose bullpen survived a shaky ninth, when B.J. Ryan gave up a solo homer to Nick Markakis.

Burnett (9-8) allowed seven runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings, with three walks and seven strikeouts.

White Sox 7, Royals 6

At Kansas City, Missouri, Carlos Quentin hit two two-run homers and Chicago rallied from a five-run deficit, scoring the go-ahead run on an eighth-inning balk.

Quentin hit his 20th homer in the fourth off Kansas City starter Brian Bannister to begin the rally. Quentin added a second homer off Bannister in the sixth, helping send the White Sox to their 11th win in 13 games.

Trailing 6-5, the White Sox caught up and went ahead in the eighth after Orlando Cabrera walked leading off against reliever Robinson Tejeda.

Cabrera stole second and third, and after Tejeda walked Quentin,

Phillies 4, Cardinals 2

At Philadelphia, Ryan Howard and Pedro Feliz hit solo homers in the eighth inning and the Philadelphia Phillies ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Howard drove an 0-2 pitch from Kyle McClellan (1-4) for his 25th homer, rallying the Phillies after they blew a 2-0 lead. Feliz added his shot off Chris Perez.

Howard tied All-Star teammate Chase Utley for the NL home run lead. Howard's 80 RBIs lead the league, and he set a team record for most RBIs before the All-Star break.

Mets 5, Giants 0

At New York, Johan Santana conceded only three hits in five effective innings before his night was cut short

er in the sixth to break a 1-1 tie.

Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto (7-9) gave up eight hits and five runs, four earned, in 6 2-3 innings.

Rockies 8, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Garrett Atkins hit two homers for Colorado and Glendon Rusch won as a starter for the first time in exactly two years.

Rusch (2-3) had not won as a starter since beating the Brewers on July 9, 2006, in his last start for the Chicago Cubs. He missed all of last season while recovering from a blood clot in his lung, and took a loss in his only other start for Colorado this year.

Rusch went six innings, giving up one run and five hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

Milwaukee starter Ben Sheets (10-3) struck out a season-high 11 over six innings, giving up three runs and five hits.

Nationals 5, Diamondbacks 0

At Washington, Jesus Flores' three-run, pinch-hit homer in the sixth inning led Washington, which snapped a six-game losing streak.

Nationals starter John Lannan (5-9) allowed two hits and walked three in six shutout innings for his first victory since May 18.

Arizona starter Micah Owings (6-8) hit three batters and walked five over 5 2-3 innings. Reliever Connor Robertson allowed a two-out RBI double to Kory Casto and Flores' three-run shot, his first career homer as a pinch-hitter.

Marlins 5, Padres 2

At San Diego, Scott Olsen allowed four hits over eight innings, and Mike Jacobs and Hanley Ramirez homered for Florida.

Olsen appeared to be in line for his first major league complete game, but he was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the ninth as the Marlins sent eight batters to the plate and scored twice.

Olsen (5-4) allowed one run and broke his career-worst winless streak of 11 games, during which he was 0-3 with a 5.31 ERA.

Florida won the three-game series against the Padres, only its second winning road series in nine since May 12.

Astros 6, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Geoff Blum hit a three-run homer in the first inning and Houston avoided a three-game sweep.

Kazuo Matsui, Ty Wigginton and Michael Bourn all had two hits for the Astros, who blew a four-run lead before scoring twice in the seventh.

Nate McLouth had three doubles and scored twice for Pittsburgh.

Houston starter Brian Moehler (5-4) allowed four runs, seven hits and a walk in six innings.



AP
New York Yankees catcher Jose Molina leaps on Bobby Abreu's back to celebrate with Abreu as first base coach Tony Pena comes to join them after Abreu had a run-scoring game-winning hit to lift the Yankees to a 2-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays in their baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, July 9, 2008.

Jim Thome's single tied the game. Plate umpire Dan Iassogna called a balk on Ramon Ramirez moments later, allowing Quentin to score the go-ahead run.

Rangers 5, Angels 4

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth for Texas.

It was Hamilton's 20th homer, and his first since June 17. Hamilton, who leads the majors with 89 RBIs, connected off major league saves leader Francisco Rodriguez (0-2), who gave up three runs in only his third blown chance this year. He has 35 saves.

Los Angeles went ahead 4-2 in the seventh on Juan Rivera's two-run homer.

by a rain delay, but New York won its fifth straight.

Ramon Castro had a three-run homer, and Carlos Delgado had three hits and is batting .429 (15-for-35) in nine games this month.

The Giants were shut out for the second straight game for the first time since June 10 last year, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The Mets achieved their first consecutive shutouts since September 2006.

Cubs 5, Reds 1

At Chicago, Carlos Zambrano allowed one hit over eight innings—a second-inning homer by Adam Dunn—and retired the final 20 batters for Chicago. Zambrano (10-3) walked none and struck out five.

Aramis Ramirez hit his 16th hom-

NBA BRIEFS

Bucks set to give Bogut 5-year, \$72.5M extension

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Milwaukee Bucks center Andrew Bogut will sign a five-year, \$72.5 million extension later this week, his agent said Wednesday. Bogut, the top overall pick in the 2005 draft, was expected to sign the extension Friday, agent David Bauman said. The agreement was first reported Wednesday by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on its Web site. Bucks spokesman Dan Smyczek also confirmed Wednesday that there was an agreement on a deal. "He's thrilled," Bauman told The Associated Press. "He feels like Milwaukee really stepped up and demonstrated to him he's a valued member of this team." The signing should also silence critics who feel the team hasn't shown a commitment to winning, Bauman said. The hiring of Scott Skiles as coach and the trade for Richard Jefferson demonstrated to Bogut that the team was making a push to be competitive. "These moves show Andrew this team is committed to winning now," Bauman said. The extension does not affect the nearly \$7 million Bogut is owed for the upcoming season, the final year of his rookie contract. Despite the Bucks' struggles in the past two seasons, Bogut indicated he wanted to stay with the team.

Bulls' top pick Rose out with knee tendinitis

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Derrick Rose has had a rough summer league. Now it might be over. The Chicago Bulls held their No. 1 overall pick out of Wednesday's game with tendinitis in his right knee. It was the third of five games the Bulls and five other teams are playing over five days in Orlando. Rose said the injury, which dates to his college days at Memphis, wasn't serious and he fought for court time. "I was mad today, but I knew they wasn't going to play me so I was just going to have to suck it up," Rose said after Chicago's 86-74 win over Orlando. "I could have played, but they said 'Don't worry about it, this is just the summer.'" Rose has struggled a little in two exhibition games, averaging 9.5 points, 5.5 assists and four turnovers a game. Like most summer league teams, the Bulls' is filled with undrafted rookies, European pros and NBA Developmental Leaguers. But Rose does have third-year pro Tyrus Thomas and second-year forward Joakim Noah to feed the ball. "I've just got to get used to it," Rose said. "Like at Memphis, it took me a time to get used to the offense and get used to my teammates. Other than that its going to be a great time." Rose, who turned pro after a freshman year in which he led the Tigers to the NCAA championship game, said he would have played under the same circumstances at Memphis.

Pacers deal made final: Bayless, Diogu to Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Trail Blazers completed the draft-night deal that brought Jerryd Bayless and forward Ike Diogu to Portland, and sent Brandon Rush, Jarrett Jack, Josh McRoberts and cash to the Indiana Pacers. The Blazers acquired the draft rights to Bayless, the 11th overall draft pick, while Indiana received the rights to Rush, the 13th pick. The deal was struck on June 26, but could not be formally announced until Wednesday. Bayless, a 6-foot-3 guard, played one season at Arizona, averaging 19.7 points, 2.7 rebounds and four assists. Diogu, a 6-foot-9 forward who has been in the NBA three seasons, averaged 5.6 points and 2.8 rebounds in 30 games. "Bayless will make our backcourt more athletic. He's a proven scorer and a tenacious competitor," general manager Kevin Pritchard said in a statement. "In Diogu we have a young NBA player with a whole lot of potential that really helps fill a positional need for us." Jack played his first three NBA seasons in Portland, averaging 9.5 points, 2.5 rebounds and four assists. McRoberts averaged 1.5 points and 1.3 rebounds in eight games his rookie season. He was the 37th overall pick in the 2007 draft out of Duke.

Kids grill McCarthy about Favre comeback rumors



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Packers coach Mike McCarthy was grilled about rumors of a Brett Favre comeback Wednesday—not by the media, but by kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay.

Standing at a podium to announce a \$100,000 donation to the club in conjunction with the team, McCarthy was asked by 11-year old Miranda Black of nearby Oconto Falls the biggest question in the state these days: “Um, is Brett Favre coming back?”

McCarthy politely punted.

“I want to know which one of those media individuals made you say that,” McCarthy said, referring to reporters standing in the back of the room. “Those are things we’ll obviously, we’ll get to down the line. But great question.”

But it didn’t stop there, as other kids in the audience of about 75 shouted out questions about Favre, who retired in March but might be having second thoughts.

One wanted to know how good the Packers were going to be without Favre.

“Well, we’re going to be a good football team regardless of what happens,” McCarthy said. “It’s a football team that has worked very hard since the end of last season. The team has done a great job of improving. And we have a big training camp coming up and that’s always a big part of our preparation, getting ready to go.”

After McCarthy dodged a few more questions about Favre—Why did he quit? How old is he, anyway?—one child asked the coach if he would sign their T-shirts.

“Sure,” he joked. “It’s better than answering these questions.”

McCarthy later waved off questions from reporters about the Favre situation, saying it wasn’t the right time or place to discuss it.

It’s a sticky situation for the Packers.

If Favre really is feeling the “itch” to play again after retiring in March, as was reported by ESPN last week,



In this Nov. 11, 2007 file photo, Green Bay Packers head coach Mike McCarthy, right, smiles with Brett Favre (4) during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007, in Green Bay, Wis.

do they welcome him back with open arms? Or is it time to move on with his designated successor, Aaron Rodgers—even if that leaves open the possibility of Favre playing for another team?

To date, McCarthy’s answers to the kids Wednesday remain the only public comments from the coach or general manager Ted Thompson since the latest round of reports and rumors of a potential Favre comeback surfaced last week.

Tuesday night, Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy said he does not believe Favre will return to the team.

“It’s a very delicate situation, because he has such a special place in Packers history,” the Green Bay Press-Gazette reported Murphy said at a charity auction in Fond du Lac, Wis.

“No player leaves the game gracefully. It’s kind of the nature of what makes

great players great, is they’re competitors and they always want to compete and they want that next challenge, and it’s hard to find that next thing that’s going to give you that excitement and adrenaline. That’s what we’re seeing a little bit here.”

Rodgers, who has spent the offseason preparing as the starter, also is trying to avoid the subject.

“I’ve been up in the mountains hanging out with my family, so I’ve been pretty immune to any media reports out there,” Rodgers said on a conference call promoting the American Century Championship golf tournament.

But former NFL quarterback Trent Dilfer, who was on the conference call along with Rodgers, said a Favre comeback would be frustrating and disappointing to Rodgers.

“Obviously Brett holds all the cards

here,” Dilfer said. “But at the same time, like anything, you deal with it. And just because Brett came back, if Brett were to come back and play and start and all those things, (you’re) always one snap away. I know we’re saying that about the most durable football player in the history of the NFL, but things change very quickly in this league.”

No kidding.

Favre sobbed in his retirement news conference March 6, saying, “It’s been a great career for me, and it’s over.” But the tears hardly had dried before reports and rumors surfaced that he was having second thoughts.

In early April, Thompson dismissed a report in the Los Angeles Times that Favre’s representatives were exploring a comeback with another team.

Later that month, after the Packers officially placed Favre on the re-

serve/retired list, Favre admitted he was having second thoughts.

“There are always second thoughts, but that’s not saying I am coming back,” he said. “It’s never a clear-cut decision. It’s something I can’t expect everyone to understand.”

Then Favre told the Gulfport (Miss.) Sun Herald that he’d be tempted to come out of retirement if Rodgers was injured.

The latest round of Favre speculation kicked off last week, when ESPN reported that Favre had told McCarthy he was feeling the “itch” to play again. But the Packers don’t seem to be tripping over themselves to get Favre back in the fold, leading to speculation about rising tension between the quarterback and the team.

Favre hasn’t spoken publicly about the latest reports, beyond telling the Sun Herald that the speculation is “all rumor” and that there was “no reason” for a media circus.

As for young Miranda, sporting a green Care Bears T-shirt and black curly hair, she only asked McCarthy about Favre because her mom wanted to know.

“If Brett Favre comes back, that would be fine,” she said. “If he doesn’t come back, that would be all right, too.”

And she seemed to hope for a better answer than the one she got.

“Well, I was thinking that he had probably answered that, a yes or no question, or maybe called up Favre or something,” she said.

But Miranda’s best friend, 10-year-old Lexi Novitski, hopes for a return.

“I want Brett Favre to come back,” she said. “I’m excited for the football season to start.”

John Benberg, the club’s executive director, said he wasn’t surprised the children had such direct questions for the coach.

“Our kids are very bright, interesting, sometimes hard-core bunch,” Benberg said. “They don’t mince any words when they ask their questions—which is the way it ought to be, I think, when you’re 8 or 10.”

If only it were that simple for adults.

Financier bids for majority interest in Steelers

A deal could be reached within days to sell a majority interest in the Pittsburgh Steelers to the chairman of a Pittsburgh-based investment firm, taking control of the NFL franchise away from the Rooney family.

The shares would be sold to Stanley Druckenmiller, chairman of Duquesne Capital management, making him principal owner of the team. Two officials familiar with the talks identified the buyer as Druckenmiller and said Monday that the deal could be completed by the end of the week. They declined to be identified because they were not directly involved in negotiations.

Druckenmiller’s interest was first reported Monday by The Wall Street Journal, which said a secret study by Goldman Sachs valued the franchise at between \$800 million and \$1.2 billion. The report came a day after Dan Rooney said he and his son, team president Art Rooney II, were attempting to buy out his four brothers in an effort to retain “substantial ownership of the team.”

Each brother owns 16 percent of the team, adding up to 80 percent, with



In this March 3, 2008 file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers chairman Dan Rooney announces the signing of Ben Roethlisberger to an eight year contract extension in Pittsburgh.

another Pittsburgh family, the McGinnleys, owning 20 percent.

Even if the deal with Druckenmiller goes through, it would still need approval by 24 of the league’s 32 owners. Dan Rooney is, without question, the

most influential and respected member of that group.

During the past 40 years, Rooney has helped resolve labor disputes, promoted racial diversity within the league and helped elect Paul Tagliabue

and Roger Goodell as commissioners.

The impending sale is the result of a feud among members of one of sport’s most renowned families and has been simmering about two years.

The 75-year-old Rooney is the oldest of five brothers. Their father, Art, bought the franchise in 1933 for \$2,500.

Dan and Art are enshrined in Pro Football’s Hall of Fame.

The other four brothers—Art Jr., Timothy, Patrick and John—want to drop their interest in the Steelers to concentrate on their race track and other interests, many of which involve the gambling industry. The Rooney family owns race tracks in New York and Florida and has added forms of gaming that are inconsistent with NFL gambling policy.

Goodell has asked Tagliabue to represent the league on Dan Rooney’s behalf in talks to reach an agreement on a separation of the gambling interests and restructured ownership if part of the team is sold.

Rooney said in a statement Monday that with Tagliabue’s help, he was at-

tempting to put together a financing plan that would buy out his brothers and their families over a period of time.

“For the past two years, the Rooney family has had discussions about a restructuring of the ownership of the Steelers in order to ensure compliance with the NFL ownership policies and the continuation of the Rooney family ownership and operation of the team,” the team said in the statement.

“I have spent my entire life devoted to the Pittsburgh Steelers and the National Football League,” Dan Rooney said in the statement. “I will do everything possible to work out a solution to ensure my father’s legacy of keeping the Steelers in the Rooney family and in Pittsburgh for at least another 75 years.”

Druckenmiller did not immediately return a call placed to his office by The Associated Press.

Although he lives primarily in New York, he frequently attends Steelers games and is said to want to include Dan and Art Rooney II in his ownership group. (AP)

Cavendish takes 5th stage for first Tour de France win



**C H A -
T E A U -
R O U X ,
F r a n c e**
(AP)—His

dream was within reach and Mark Cavendish didn't let it get away.

The British sprinter had been frustrated on Monday when his chance to win a stage of the Tour de France was thwarted by a breakaway. On Wednesday, he got revenge by recording his first victory in cycling's premier race.

The Team Columbia rider took the fifth stage in a sprint after a three-rider breakaway that led almost the entire way in the Tour's longest leg was caught within sight of the finish line.

Stefan Schumacher of Germany retained the leader's yellow jersey on a day that allowed the sprinters to show their mettle but had no impact on the standings. Contenders for the overall victory all finished safely in the pack.

Cavendish had hoped to win the third stage on Monday, but the breakaway held out to the end, denying the sprinters a chance for a victory.

"Obviously after the other day we were really disappointed, so

it made us motivated for today," said the 23-year-old. "For sure it is the biggest thing that has happened to me."

French national champion Nicolas Vogondy, who had been in Wednesday's breakaway, tried to hold off the pack at the end but didn't have the strength.

"I wore (the French champion's jersey) nicely until 100 meters from the end, but I missed out on the most important 100 meters," Vogondy said. "I still had some reserves, but it's difficult to resist when the sprinters set off."

Cavendish completed the flat, 232-kilometer (144-mile) ride from Cholet to Chateauroux in 5 hours, 27 minutes, 52 seconds, edging veterans Oscar Freire of Spain and Erik Zabel of Germany.

All but five of the 177 finishers were given the same time, meaning there were no changes to the overall standings, where Schumacher leads Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg and David Millar of Britain by 12 seconds.

"It was great to enjoy this stage in the yellow jersey," Schumacher said. "Yesterday, it was a great mix of feelings given that the start of the



AP
Mark Cavendish of Great Britain reacts showing a newspaper with pictures of his victory in Wednesday's stage, prior to the start of the sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race between Aigurande and the ski resort of Super-Besse, central France, Thursday July 10, 2008.

season was not good for me. Yesterday, I could have cried but I didn't want to cry in front of everyone. Today, I was much more relaxed."

Spanish rider Alejandro Valverde, one of the favorites for the overall title, had a scare when he hit debris about 80 kilometers (50 miles) into the stage and went over his handlebars. He injured his right arm, right knee and calf, but got back on his bike and kept riding.

The injuries are not expected to threaten Valverde's continued participation, the Caisse d'Epargne team said.

Frenchman Aurelien Passeron hit a female spectator about five kilometers (three miles) from the end of the race. Passeron got back on his bike and continued, but finished almost five minutes behind the field. Race organizers said the

spectator injured her right wrist but did not break any bones.

Last year's best climber, Juan Mauricio Soler of Colombia, pulled out of the race because of an injury he received in the first stage.

Wednesday's stage was the last opportunity the sprinters will have for a while. The Tour enters the mountains for the first time in Thursday's sixth stage, a 195.5-kilometer (121.5-mile) trek from Aigurande to Super-Besse that features the moderate climbs of the Massif Central.

Though the ascents are less formidable than the famed—and forthcoming—stages in the Pyrenees and the Alps, they may give the first indication of how the favorites will fare in the next two weeks.

19-AND-UNDER

From Page 44

lar training being conducted at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Other members of last year's Micronesian Basketball Tournament were Damien Deleon Guerrero, Keoni Chariton, Steven Tenorio, Frank Basa, Won Joo Jung, and Jerome Norita. The latter two are already over the age limit.

In an earlier interview, Aguon said he plans to enter the 19-under national team in the upcoming BANMI 25-and-under caging.

The 25-and-under caging will be the final tune-up tournament for the Junior Nationals before they head to Guam in the last week of September for the Oceania

Under-19, which will feature teams from Australia, Palau, New Caledonia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu

Outstanding players from each team will be selected for the Oceania all-star squad, which will then play in the U20 Australian National Championships in Brisbane next year.

Women's national coach Elias Rangamar, meanwhile, is having trouble putting up a team for the Oceania Under-19 toumey, as most of his players—including her No. 1 player Chelsea Ruloked—have already left the CNMI.

He said he will be holding tryouts beginning 2pm this Monday, July 14, at the Ada Gym. Rangamar hopes that veterans of the Marianas Inter-Scholastic Organization and Private Schools League will attend the tryouts and form the core of the women's 19-and-under national team.

JESUS

From Page 44

seven other islanders joining Iguel in the event with David Ambler from New Zealand winning his heat in the personal best time of 10.58.

The best of the islanders was the experienced Adison Alfred from the Solomon Islands. His time was 11.19 seconds. Adison has already competed at the 2006 World Juniors in Beijing, the 2007 Youth Championships

in Ostrava, and the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia.

The rest of the islanders were Thomas Slowinski (Tahiti) with 11.42 seconds, Gordon Heather (Cook Islands) 11.57, Emile Nisap (Vanuatu) 11.64, Tim Natua (Kiribati) 11.88, Dayne O'Hara (Norfolk Islands) 12.03, and Jeffrey Tago (American Samoa) 13.18.

Australia's James Kaan, meanwhile, qualified for the semifinal of the 800m with a third place in his heat (1:50.28). Countryman Zoe Timmers

also qualified for the final of the high jump with a qualifying height of 1.81m, but teammate Kate Shierlaw failed to progress with a throw of 47.98m in the women's javelin.

There were mixed results for Australia in the women's 800m heats, with Trychelle Kingdom finishing the second fastest with a time of 2:07.77, but Sianne Toemoe (2:09.48) failed to advance. Kiwi Angela Smit (2:08.15) qualified for the semifinals.

Ryan Gregson of Australia came third in his heat of the

1500m in a time of 3:46.82, qualifying for the semifinal. Fellow Aussie Craig Huffer was not so lucky with his time of 3:50.90.

Breen (11.70) and Ambler (10.63) failed to make to the final of their respective 100m events. Both finished third in their semi-final.

Many more Oceania athletes saw action on Day 2 yesterday of the Championships, including Samoa's Margaret Satupai in the shot put and Guam's Kenneth Karosich in the 400m hurdles.

NMC

From Page 44

the halftime break.

The seesaw battle carried over in the second half, as both teams exchanged the lead with NMC having the last say in the third and entered the fourth and final quarter ahead by the thinnest of margins, 61-60.

NMC and BoG battled through several ties in the pay-off period, so it was just fitting that game go into overtime with both sides knotted up at 82-all.

The extra five minutes proved the hardest time to score, as NMC only managed to add six points to its total. But BoG was worse,

as the bankers managed only a deuce to lose by four points.

Swingman Mark Wallace paced Proa with 31 points, while pint-sized Jose Tumaquip and Gyles Ruloked added 20 and 16 markers in the win, which was NMC's fourth in five outings.

BoG, which dropped to 6-2, was led by the 31 of James Villacrusis. Randy Pelisamen also scored 28 in the loss.

In the opener, Dennis Reyes scored 23 points to help Aguagat nail its second win against three losses following Customs' 68-62 triumph against Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA started strong and took a 16-12 lead. But it was all Aguagat from there, which

took a 32-27 advantage at the half before settling for a 50-43 spread at the end of three quarters of play.

Reyes then teamed up with Ray Lizama in the payoff period, as the duo combined for 10 of the team's final 18 points to give Aguagat the four-point win.

John Paul Sablan and Jason Sablan were the only other Aguagat players to finish in twin digits with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

CPA, which is still winless in three tries, was led by the 27 of Jerome Reyes, who was the only bright spot for the team.

First Game

Aguagat 68 – Reyes 23, J.P.

Sablan 11, J. Sablan 10, J. Lizama 7, R. Lizama 5, Iguel 4, Camacho 3, Fejeran 3, Guerrero 2.

CPA 62 – Reyes 27, Joyner 8, Torres 8, Sablan 7, Ohel 6, Borja 2, Taitingfong 2, Cepeda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-16, 32-27, 50-43, 68-62.

Referees: Connie Camacho and Gilbert Espinosa.

Second Game

NMC 88 – Wallace 31, Tumaquip 20, Ruloked 16, Diaz 11, Buniag 8, Manalili 2.

BoG 84 – Villacrusis 31, Pelisamen 28, Palacios 11, Taisacan 9, Lee 5.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 36-42, 61-60, 82-82, 88-84 (OT).

Referees: Michael White and Dado Vistal.

CNMI

From Page 44

League Tournament will be held on July 24.

Team CNMI will then return to Saipan the very next day, July 25. Other countries taking part in the tournament are China, South Korea, Chinese-Taipei, Thailand, India, Singapore, and host Hong Kong.

Ada said the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament marks the first time Australia, Singapore, and India have joined the 9-12 baseball competition.

The Saipan Major All-Stars earned the right to represent the Commonwealth in the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament after beating Rota, 11-1, last month at the Joaquin Ogo Sr. Baseball Field in Sinapalo, Rota.

The island's flame-throwing

pitcher Chris Mizer shut down the host's batters in three innings of work, recording seven strikeouts and no hits while giving up one error and a run in yet another mercy rule-shortened victory for the Saipan Little Leaguers.

Saipan's hitters were also equally adept in scoring runs for the powerhouse team, as they tortured Rota's pitchers with five runs in the first inning, two in the third, and four

more in the fourth for good measure.

Making up the rest of the CNMI Major All-Star are Jared Sablan, Ricky Joe Riungel, Jeremy Rabauliman, A.J. Lizama, Jeremy Lizama, Frankie Camacho, Jun Rabauliman, Jonah Flores, Jerome Reyes, Keene Deleon Guerrero, R.J. Knecht, Raymond Saralu, and Poland Masaharu.

The team is coached by Elmer Sablan and Manny Sablan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	55	35	.611	—
Boston	55	39	.585	2
New York	49	42	.538	6 1/2
Baltimore	44	45	.494	10 1/2
Toronto	44	47	.484	11 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	53	37	.589	—
Minnesota	50	41	.549	3 1/2
Detroit	46	44	.511	7
Kansas City	40	52	.435	14
Cleveland	37	53	.411	16

West Division

Los Angeles	54	37	.593	—
Oakland	49	42	.538	5
Texas	48	44	.522	6 1/2
Seattle	36	55	.396	18

West Division

Arizona	45	46	.495	—
Los Angeles	45	46	.495	—
San Francisco	39	52	.429	6
Colorado	39	53	.424	6 1/2
San Diego	36	56	.391	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Boston 18, Minnesota 5
N.Y. Yankees 2, Tampa Bay 1, 10 innings
Detroit 8, Cleveland 6
Toronto 9, Baltimore 8
Texas 5, L.A. Angels 4
Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 6
Seattle 6, Oakland 4
Florida 5, San Diego 2
Houston 6, Pittsburgh 4
Philadelphia 4, St. Louis 2
N.Y. Mets 5, San Francisco 0
Washington 5, Arizona 0
Colorado 8, Milwaukee 3
Chicago Cubs 5, Cincinnati 1
L.A. Dodgers 2, Atlanta 1

LOCAL SCORES

Govt Basketball Standings

PTI	2	0
NMC	4	1
Autonomous	2	1
BOG	6	2
DCCA	4	2
DOC	3	2
Tinian	3	3
Aguagat	2	3
Legislature	2	5
DPW	1	4
CPA	0	3
DPS	0	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	49	43	.533	—
Florida	47	44	.516	1 1/2
New York	47	44	.516	1 1/2
Atlanta	43	49	.467	6
Washington	35	57	.380	14

Central Division

Chicago	55	36	.604	—
St. Louis	51	41	.554	4 1/2
Milwaukee	50	41	.549	5
Cincinnati	43	49	.467	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	42	48	.467	12 1/2
Houston	42	50	.457	13 1/2

SAIWAI hopes to break 2007's numbers

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Saipan Walking Association Inc. will hold its 2008 PTI Aqua Walk this Saturday morning and secretary Mario Espeleta is inviting everyone to take part in the event.

"Last year we had 66 participants who graced the event. We hope to break this number this year," he said.

He said SAIWAI will be giving a slew of souvenirs to early morning walkers, as PTI has donated 70 hats and key chains as well as 35 beach balls and frisbees for the event.

The 2008 PTI Aqua Walk will be held tomorrow, July 12, in the waters off Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Espeleta earlier said that event will be similar to last year's where two courses were available—one is in the water and one along the beach shoreline prepared for participants who do not want to walk in the waters.

Espeleta reiterated that aside from the PTI Aqua Walk being a fun family activity, it also has some health benefits.

The Pacific Development Inc. employee said it has long been proven that seawater has a therapeutic effect on the body and participants will get plenty



Participants of last year's 2007 PTI Aqua Walk organized by the Saipan Walking Association, Inc. smile for the camera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of that when they immerse half of their bodies during the PTI Aqua Walk.

Registration for the event begins at 7:30am at the back of the Chalan Kanoa landmark.

Espeleta said he is expecting at least 70 participants to the event, which will cost \$8 but will entitle attendees to an event T-shirt and

light snacks and refreshments after the PTI Aqua Walk.

He also said the PTI Aqua Walk is unique to Saipan and the closest to it anywhere in the world is an activity in Japan where participants walk in the pool instead of shallow ocean water.

Participants to the PTI Aqua Walk will tackle a one-kilometer course marked by buoys in

the water and participants have the option of circling the course as many times they want provided they complete the mandatory two laps.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the PTI Aqua Walk.

IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the

CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about the PTI Aqua Walk and SAIWAI's future events, contact Mario at 322-8876, Hiroko at 322-8781, or Bea at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001, and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking.

Softball tourney fundraiser reset for next week



Instead of this weekend, the Sufa Softball Association's Softball Tournament Fundraiser has been moved to July 18, 19, and 20.

One of the coordinators, Joe Salas, said the tournament was postponed for a week because

of a scheduling conflict with another organization that would be using one of the venues this weekend.

Sufa Softball's competition will both use the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Capital Hill Field at the foot of Mt. Tapochao.

Salas said, so far, seven teams have signed up with two others waiting in the wings. The seven confirmed teams are Kagman Mobil, Joe and Audy, Potu, Brother Hood, Belau team, Chelus, and Wetz.

Aside from the one-week postponement, everything about the competition stands. The tournament begins on July 18 and will be played from 5pm to 11pm at the Tan Ge Field.

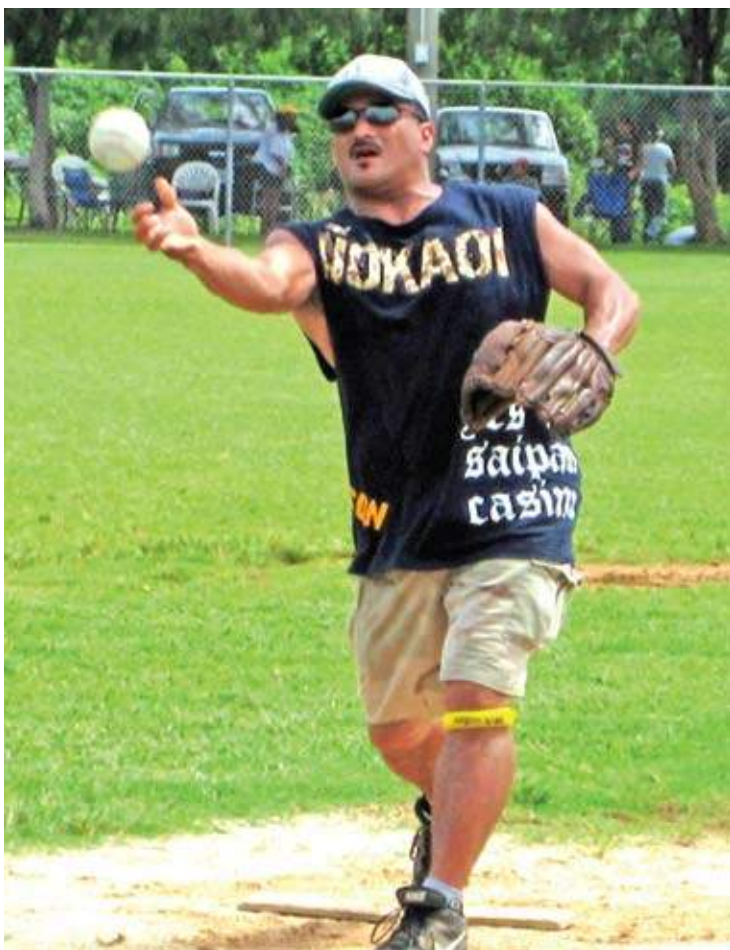
The July 19 schedule will be a lot earlier and will commence at 9am until 5pm at the Capital Hill Field. Championship day will be Sunday, July 20, and will be from 9am to 5pm at the Capital Hill Field.

In the event Mother Nature cancels a game, the Capital Hill Field will still be available for use from 6:30pm to 11:30pm.

Entrance fee for the three-day tourney is \$150. The champion will take home \$150, the runner-up \$75, and third place \$50.

Roque Celis will be serving as tournament director of the competition.

For more information about Sufa Softball Association's Softball Tournament Fundraiser, call Salas at 483-3501, Jovie Flores at 287-5515, or Delbert Sablan at 286-3146. (Mark Rabago)



Sufa Softball Association's Softball Tournament Fundraiser has been moved back a week. Photo above shows Mel Sakisat throwing from the mound in a file photo.

Islandwide slow-pitch meeting next Tuesday



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Members and family of Security Title Chura celebrate their victory after winning the 2007 Men's Islandwide Slow-pitch Softball League crown at the expense of Exclusive last September at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

The Saipan Softball Association will have an organizational meeting for the 2008 Islandwide Slow-pitch Softball League on Tuesday, July 15, 6m at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The agenda for the meeting include league ground rules, entrance fee, and this year's new format which will have the champion represent Saipan in the 2008 Marianas Cup set on Rota later this year.

All interested teams' managers or representatives should attend the meeting on Tuesday.

Last September, home runs by Myron Sablan and Mel Sakisat helped Security Title Chura squeeze out an extra inning 13-12 victory against Exclusive in the 2007 Islandwide Slow-pitch Softball League.

Sablan actually had a solo shot in the top of the second while Sakisat, who pitched in no relief, blasted a fifth inning grand slam that brought the Security Title-sponsored Chura back into the game.

Sponsored by Pacific Trading Co., the Marianas Cup used to stage its own tournament but this year decided to spice up the Islandwide Slow-pitch League by adding the extra incentive for the team that tops the competition.

The Marianas Cup, now on its sixth year, is an annual tournament sponsored by Miller Lite and Pacific Trading Co. No Ka Oi won the Saipan leg of the tournament after beating Brotherhood, 18-9, in July 2008.

For more information about the 2008 Islandwide Slow-pitch Softball League, call Mario Sablan at 664-2503 or John Maratita at 322-5483. (Mark Rabago)

Women's golf July ace this Saturday



The CNMI Women's Golf Association July Ace of the Month Tournament

will be held this Saturday, July 14, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, showtime is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct—adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. (Mark Rabago)

Fil-Taga July Ace at Laolao this Sunday



The Fil-Taga Golfers Association will hold its July Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, July 13, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course in Marpi.

According to tournament director Mike Cruz, show time is set at 11:30am with tee-off time scheduled 30 minutes later at 12pm.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the \$35 to \$40 price range for most tournaments.

Its 2008-2009 set of officers are led by president Mike Cruz, vice president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, treasurer Arnaldo Guban, and board of directors Fr. Manny Corcuera, Jhun Dela Cruz, Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batalliones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan. (Mark Rabago)



Saipan Walking Association Inc. will hold its 2008 PTI Aqua Walk this Saturday morning and secretary Mario Espeleta is inviting everyone to take part in the event.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

76ers ink Brand to 5-year deal worth reported \$82M

Elton Brand believed his career would end as an L.A. Story. Forced by a contract ultimatum Brand would not accept, the would-be movie mogul and two-time NBA All-Star.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Jesus following Tyrone's footsteps'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Northern Marianas Athletics development officer Elias Rangamar said Jesus Iguel's sub-12 century dash in the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships is a great building block in the two-sporter's initiation to athletics.

Iguel, who ran the 100m in a time of 11.71 last Wednesday in Bydgoszcz, Poland, only started training in track this year, and according to Rangamar, the 19-year-old Kagman High School student is well on his way to following in the footsteps of Tyrone Omar.

Omar is the CNMI's 100m king and, like Iguel, also plays baseball. In fact, Iguel is part

of the Asia-Pacific Big League All-Star team that advanced to the 2008 World Series in Easley, South Carolina.

"Other than Tyrone I think that's one of the fastest junior times we've every had. That's his first off-island competition. He only started training in track two or three months ago.

I think he's going in the right direction just like how Tyrone started. He's actually following Tyrone's footsteps. They're both baseball players coming in. He's progressing OK and I'm pretty sure he will eventually put his time down to where Tyrone is," said Rangamar in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* last night.

The NMA development officer added that Iguel will banner the CNMI's hopes in the 2010 Micronesian Games.

"Hopefully by the Micronesian Games [Jesus will peak]. That's what we're looking at. He's committed to the Games along with his brothers—Luis and Juan. It (2010 Micro Games) is going to be loaded with Iguel brothers."

Iguel recorded the 11.71—his new personal best—last Wednesday while running in heat 1 of lane 9. He had a reaction time of 0.194 in the World Junior Championships

The performance broke the 11.82 he registered during the recent 2008 Oceania Grand



Iguel

Prix held here on Saipan. Iguel previously ran the 100m in 11.5 during the McDonald's All-Schools Meet last month, but that was using a hand timer.

Iguel joined other Oceania athletes that saw action in Day 1 of the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships.

According to the Oceania Athletics Association website, the first athlete to hit the track was New Zealand's Sarah McSweeney, who finished 10th in heat 2 of the 3000m steeplechase in the time of 10:44.07.

Shot putter Emanuele Fua-matu of Australia had a great qualifying performance with the third best of the day—19.28m. In the final he threw 19.11m to finish ninth.

The two Australian discus throwers, Andrew Welch (52.88m) and Andrew Peska (52.29m) did not progress to the final.

It was mixed results for Oceania in the men's 400m, as Aussie Kurt Mulcahy won his heat in a time of 47.35.

Fiji's Isoa Me, however, was down on his Saipan perfor-

mance and was eighth in his heat in the time of 49.40.

In the women's 400m Angeline Blackburn of Australia easily won her heat in 53.82—a personal best—to advance to the semifinal.

Many of Oceania's athletes were in action in the 100m heats. The standout from Oceania in the women's 100m was Australia's Melissa Breen who advanced to the next round by finishing second in heat 5 in the time of 11.66.

Nauru's Dana Thoma, who only got her Polish visa in the nick of time, came eighth in heat 2 in the time of 13.80 and Papua New Guinea's Shirley Vunatup came ninth in heat 8 in the time of 13.58.

The men's 100m heats saw

See JESUS on Page 42

NMC, Aguagat slip past opponents

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Northern Marianas College and Aguagat wiggled through tough assignments in the continuation of the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the nightcap, the Proas held Bank of Guam to a mere two points in overtime to squeeze out an 88-84 victory.

The game was tight from the opening tip with NMC taking a modest lead of 18-13 after the first quarter.

But BoG bounced back in the second quarter, outscoring Proa by 11 points to take a relatively comfortable 42-36 spread into

See NMC on Page 42



Northern Marianas College players high-five each other after beating Bank of Guam in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CNMI Major All-Stars leave July 17

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI Major All-Stars will depart Saipan for the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major League Tournament in Hong Kong on Thursday, July 17.

CNML Little League District Administrator James Ada said the CNMI's best 9-12-year-old ballplayers will play their first game on July 19 when they go up against the Philippines at 1pm at the main field.

The team, managed by Ran-



The CNMI Major All-Stars are seen here standing in attention during the 2008 Asia-Pacific Junior Regional Tournament opening ceremony last month at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

dall Aguon, then faces off with Australia on Sunday, July 20, beginning 12:30pm at the secondary field of the venue, which is a mere 10-minute walk from Hollywood Disneyland.

The CNMI's third game will then pit the Major All-Stars against archrival Guam in the 11:30pm game on July 21 at the secondary field. New Zealand will be up next for the local boys when they square off against them on July 22 at 1pm at the main field.

The CNMI wraps up its elimination round assignment on July 23 when it takes on Indonesia at the secondary field starting at 10:30pm. Ada said the finals of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Major

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19-and-under cagers wanted

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With the FIBA Oceania Under-19 Youth Basketball Tournament less than three months away, the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is still in need of players to fill in the 10-man rosters of the men's and women's national teams.

In a meeting last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, men's national coach Rufino Aguon said, at the most, seven players from last year's Micronesian Basketball Tournament will be available for the Oceania Under-19 tourney.

He said of the seven, five are currently on Saipan—center Jayvan Tarkong, forwards Jericho Cruz and Marvin Rabauliman, and guards Allen Moses and Joe Castro.

Aguon said Bill Babauta and Tony Borja are currently in Guam taking up college and will be joining the team, provided they are doing their

training on their own.

The Oceania Under-19 tourney will be held in the southernmost chain of the Marianas.

Aguon said he is still looking for players to fill up the three vacant slots as the CNMI—as per FIBA rules—is



Center Jayvan Tarkong, seen here in a file photo, will represent the CNMI in the FIBA Oceania Under-19 Youth Basketball Tournament this coming September in Guam.

allowed to field only 10 players for the Oceania Under-19 tourney.

Interested players who were born on or after Jan. 1, 1999, can still join the regu-

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